

Sermon Outlines

Moses Being Trained By God - Part 4

The Preparation of Moses

In both the Old or New Testaments, an individual's training for the work of God can be an ongoing series of experiences as long as they are on this earth. For instance, Moses was trained for 80 years to deliver and lead the children of Israel (Ex. 7:7); Peter was trained by God to go to the Gentile Cornelius (Acts 10:9-17). It is a training when one can work with the Holy Spirit or be obstinate. If stubborn, then there will be consequences (Heb. 10:29). The ideal is to work with the Holy Spirit and thereby be equipped for the works the Lord has planned for them (Eph. 2:10). How one responds now will be either rewarded or that which they could have had will be lost at the Judgment Seat (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 1 Cor. 4:5; Col. 3:23-25).

- a) Adam heard the voice of God but did not want to hear it because of His sin. In spiritual education, every work undertaken for the glory of God and honouring of the Lord begins with an encounter with the Living God. This is first at conviction of sin and the moment of salvation. From that point, the individual has the honoured privilege of working with the Holy Spirit in developing God and Christ's likeness.

The Focus of The Communications

God reveals to Moses His Person, purposes for Moses and Israel, also quelling Moses' excuses.

- a) His Person: Who and what He is.
- b) These purposes are fourfold:
 - i) To go and demand that Pharaoh release the children of Israel. (Ex. 5:1)
 - ii) To deliver the children from the power of Egypt. (Ex. 3:8)
 - iii) To manifest God's power. (Ex. 9:16)
 - iv) To manifest the Lord is God above all gods. (Ex. 12:12)
- c) He had to learn that when God deigns to use a person for a particular work, excuses do not work with God. There was no way Moses was going to volunteer or be told to lead the children out of Egypt, so he started giving God excuses for such a thing.

One of the most serious acts of service is being that which Moses was called to be, a spiritual leader. This is for at least two reasons:

- a) That which is said will be accepted as truth. The people believed Moses (Ex. 4:31).
- b) It must be the whole counsel of God, not diluted or modified to suit the audience (Acts 20:27).
- c) The individual will be held accountable by the Lord for how they fulfilled the responsibilities and kept the truth revealed. Note the word "charge" in Timothy (1 Tim. 1:3, 18; 5:7, 21; 6:13; 2 Tim. 4:1).
- d) Since the work of Moses was to deliver His people from bondage to liberty, what was liberty to the Israelites? It was not the liberty to do nothing but to work for the glory of God. "Make me a sanctuary" (Ex. 25:8). For elders and teachers, the responsibility of working with God to bring saints to spiritual maturity for the glory of God is not to be taken lightly. The saints are to be delivered and liberated for the exaltation of the Lord and working to develop the next generation to be firmly established in the truths of God (Eph. 4:11-14).

Moses was not a foolish man knowing that a nomad from the desert could not just walk into the court and tell Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. Pharaoh had no fear of the God of Israel when he said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Ex. 5:2). He had to be sure of what he was hearing and put up his objections. Having been educated in the palace, he knew the etiquette for meeting and speaking to royalty. He also learnt what it was to be a shepherd.

First, God needed to get Moses' attention, and this was done by a bush that did not burn up. "The Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire, out of the midst of the bush" (Ex. 3:2-3). It indicates the holiness of God which permeates all that He is involved with. Possibly Moses had seen many bushes burn in the desert but this was different, it did not get incinerated. This was something special and deciding to investigate he decided to approach the bush, then he heard the voice of God.

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- a) Having Moses' attention, the next step in the school of God was for Moses to learn God is not a subject for curiosity and therefore not to approach Him casually (Ex. 3:5). He is Jehovah. What a lesson for any saint in any age. Approaching God, whether for supplication, thanksgiving or petitioning, He is to be given great respect. We can come with boldness, but he is not "Daddy" or "The Big man upstairs" etc.
- b) It was his first recorded major meeting of Moses with God in a personal way. It is of note that the children of Israel heard the voice of God out of the midst of the fire at Sinai (Deut. 4:33; 5:24, 26). Moses and the children of Israel's first living encounter with God was of fire, and on both occasions, distance was to be observed between them.

Why send the plagues?

One of the hardest things in life is to convince a person that what they have and do believe is an error. We are very reluctant to leave the ways of our forefathers and if pagans, reject the gods we have worshipped. The task God had given to Moses was by His power to demonstrate that the true God was superior to all the Egyptian gods, and even if only temporarily, to cause Pharaoh to change his mind.

God will demonstrate that the greatest power on earth is unable to restrict His purposes or fully display any impotence with Him. Therefore, God would deliver His people despite the stubbornness and pride of Pharaoh.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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