

## Sermon Outlines

### Moses Being Trained By God - Part 1

- 1) From time to time one hears an elderly person say, "I'm too old for to do anything for God now". With that in mind, Moses, as an old man eighty years of age, it was now forty years since "By faith he forsook Egypt" (Heb. 11:27). Life from that day had just seemed to stop, but God was moving with him, although he was not aware of it. There is no record of Moses having an encounter with the Living God until the meeting at the burning bush.
- 2) For 40 years Moses had lived as the son of Pharaoh's daughter and for the second 40 years approximately he lived as the son in law to Jethro. How he must at times felt what a failure he was. God had a work for him, and instead of liberating the children of Israel, he is far away from them having zero earthly influence, for many, a forgotten nobody.
- 3) He had married Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, who is presented as a gracious man. He cared for Moses' wife and children when Moses went to Egypt and brought the lads back to their father and Zipporah back to her husband Moses (Ex. 18:6). He rejoiced when he heard of the goodness of God to Israel and offered praise to God for the deliverance of the Israelites (Ex. 18:10) making especially the fact that the Lord is greater than all gods (Ex. 18:11). He offered a burnt offering and sacrifices to God (Ex. 18:12). It was with his commendation and permission Moses went back to Egypt (Ex. 4:18).
- 4) Our first observation is Moses was eighty years of age when he had this encounter with God. Jacob was quite an elderly man, possibly around 60 years of age. Abraham was close to 100 when Issac was born. Zacharias and Elizabeth were elderly when John the Baptist was born. What an encouragement this is to many of us who are elderly. We may wonder, can God still use us? Is life too far gone for us to do a work for God? In no way! Moses may have thought he had destroyed God's purposes for his life by the act of killing the Egyptian. Jacob may have thought he was no use to God, or that God would never use him with his twisted conniving nature. Zachariah and Elizabeth may have naturally accepted the fact they would never have a child and Abraham and Sarah were the same. Three matters are clear:
  - a) We are never too old to have an encounter with God.
  - b) We are never too old for God to use.
  - c) Despite our past failure, sins, or misunderstandings of the will of God for our lives, the fact we are alive is God's assurance our work for Him has not gone beyond the point of no return.
    - i) During the forty years from when Moses left Egypt for Midian, never once is there any record of God communing with Moses. It seems God was silent which is one of two things that ought to cause fear to the individual. The other is disobeying the word of God.
- 5) It was not happenstance that this first direct experience of Moses with God was when shepherding sheep. His natural ability was going to be exalted to his spiritual work. Peter was taken from catching fish to be a fisher of men. To Moses it was just an ordinary day but John wrote, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth" (Jn. 3:8). God, by His spirit, can speak to whomsoever He wants, whenever He wants, and by whatever means He wants.
- 6) Like Moses, the individual desirous to do a work for God, or been called to do a work for God, must have a personal meeting with the Living God. That is, God must not be some remote clinical entity, but a living reality to the individual in their secular and ecclesiastical world. It was Moses' first lesson and it concerned the holiness of God. When an individual gets a glimpse of the indescribable glory of the Most High, all thoughts of self, ability, merit and moral fitness is gone. The holiness of God is frightening and intimidating. A low or casual appreciation of the holiness of God will never develop a spiritual leader, one who speaks with the power of God and conviction.
  - a) In time an individual may desire or may be requested to do a work for God. This must never be taken on lightly or without prayerful exercise, for the individual is taking on a very solemn responsibility,

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Whether the work is a Sunday School teacher, the janitor of the building, or the person responsible for setting up the electronics, it carries responsibility before God.

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

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia