

Lesson 2 4th February, 2018

God Prepares a Deliverer

Lesson Scope: [Exodus 2:1-22](#)

References in brackets are to Exodus 2 unless noted otherwise

Lesson Focus

As Exodus 2 opens, Israel was living in dark times. Pharaoh had commanded that all the Hebrew baby boys should be cast into the river. It was in this setting that Amram and Jochebed acted in faith to preserve the life of their son. This son, Moses, later expressed his own faith by choosing to identify with his brethren in their affliction.

In the brief space of time from when Pharaoh's daughter retrieved Moses from the ark at the river's edge until Moses became her son by adoption, Moses' parents nurtured him in the godly environment of their own home. After that, he was schooled in Egypt's learning until the age of forty (Acts 7:22-23), when he went to visit his brethren.

After his slaying of the Egyptian was discovered, he fled from Pharaoh to Midian. Here he spent the next forty years caring for the sheep of his father-in-law in the wilderness. These eighty years were not wasted. God was preparing a man to deliver the children of Israel from bondage and lead them to the Promised Land.

God never forgets nor forsakes His people. Those who remain faithful in spite of difficulties can be used by God to provide for His people.

Sometimes we humans become impatient with God's preparations. Our insight into preparation issues is so finite. We do well to more fully rely on God's infinite and overall understanding of our needs, so we can be more effective in His service.

In this lesson we see the need for us to wait on the Lord's timing and methods. God uses the church in calling and directing individuals in many avenues of service; He may and does also call individuals direct.

We as individuals also have personal responsibility to serve in the daily round of duties. We all have many opportunities to be a faithful testimony of the grace of God. As we do so, God can prepare us for what He has for us to do in the future.

Lesson Aim: To see the sovereign hand of God as He prepares individuals for service. God's preparation for Moses' service included the first eighty years of his life. His active service in leading Israel was the following forty years.

Theme Verses: [Hebrews 11:24-25](#). By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

Lesson Text

Hidden in the River

[Exodus 2:1-10](#) Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Identifying With His Brethren

[Exodus 2:11-15](#) One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹²He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³When

he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?”¹⁴ He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.”¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

Dwelling in Midian

Exodus 2:16-22 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock.¹⁷ The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.¹⁸ When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?”¹⁹ They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.”²⁰ He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.”²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.²² She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.

Questions for Study

Hidden in the River

1. How was God's providence evident in Moses' early years?
2. What motivated Moses' mother to place him in an ark in the river?
3. What should parents be doing for their children in their formative years?
4. What goals should godly parents have for their children?

Identifying With His Brethren

5. Enumerate the costs of Moses' choice to identify with the people of God.
6. What does it cost today to identify with God's people?

Dwelling in Midian

7. How did God use disappointment in Moses' life to further prepare him for his work to deliver Israel from Egypt?
8. Why should service to others be a part of every leader's preparation?

Analyzing the Passage

Moses' parents considered him a goodly child. Acts 7:20 calls him exceeding fair. Hebrews 11:23 describes him as a proper child. While those descriptions refer to his physical appearance, his parents obviously were focusing on more than that. Their faith caused them to have a proper view of the sacredness of human life. They were moved to hide him for three months and then to build an ark in an attempt to save his life.

When Moses' parents placed Moses into the ark and placed the ark into the Nile River, they likely were aware that the Egyptians had a religious practice of washing in the Nile. It also appears that Pharaoh's daughter largely understood the circumstances of Moses being placed in the ark. Thus, God miraculously controlled these individuals' actions and the circumstances to preserve Moses' life.

We believe that God moved Moses to visit his brethren when he was forty years old. Even though he was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians" (Acts 7:22), he still identified with his brethren. His impulsive act of killing the Egyptian to mete out justice forced him to flee the country. Even though Moses' desire was right, it was neither God's method nor His timing.

God's plan for Moses to spend the next forty years in the wilderness was a time of preparation. This time helped him to become familiar with wilderness life, which would benefit him for the time when he would lead Israel out of Egypt.

Moses' name for his son, Gershom, means "a stranger here." This shows his continuing identity with his own people.

Principles and Applications

Hidden in the River

1. God uses faithful parents to instill faith in their children (2:1-2). The actions of Moses' parents in preserving his life and the spiritual nurture they provided in his young years, no doubt, had a profound influence that followed Moses throughout life.

Parents influence their children in a more profound way than they often realize. One important area of influence is keeping spiritual priorities in life. Regularity in family worship and collective worship communicate what is important to parents. Parents consistently dressing their inno-

cent children communicates the importance of modesty and simplicity. Simple and serviceable homes, home furnishings, and automobiles communicate the importance of a separated lifestyle.

2. The faithful do their best and then trust the care and future of their children to God (2:3-4). God expects parents to do all they can for their children, even though that may at times seem inadequate. God gives parents grace to be faithful and will work in the lives of children even in spite of parental weakness or failure. Parents should continue to pray for their children, even after they are beyond the point of directly influencing them.

3. God preserves the posterity of the faithful to further His cause (2:5-8). God was raising up a deliverer for His people through Pharaoh's daughter who had compassion on this helpless child. God will surely direct the children of His faithful followers.

4. As godly parents carefully nurture their children during their formative years, the groundwork is laid for them to choose right (2:9-10). The brief window of opportunity parents have to mold their children for God closes so soon. Parents need to take the challenge to seize these moments to train and discipline their children in the ways of righteousness.

Identifying With His Brethren

5. Identifying with God's people is a personal choice of faith (2:11). At the time Moses went out to his brethren, he was grown and no longer lived with his parents who had nurtured him. After parents have done their part, they must commit their children to God to make choices of faith. Continuing encouragement and prayer for them are still important. How parents rejoice when their children choose to identify with God's people!

6. Faithful men in their humanity may, in well-intentioned zeal, sometimes miss the mark of God's sovereign purposes (2:12). Errors in judgment occur at times due to human shortsightedness. God continues to work in such circumstances to redirect the thinking of those sincerely desiring God's way.

7. God may use disappointment and reverses to develop and refine faith (2:13-15). To have his good intentions misjudged by his brethren was, no doubt, a disappointment to Moses. But God led him to a place where He could further prepare Moses for his future work. Moses did not let the rejection of his brethren cause him to lose faith.

Dwelling in Midian

8. God enables His people to find rest and contentment as sojourners in a strange land (2:16-22). Moses' continuing identity with his people helped him live a content, godly life. As those whose citizenship is in heaven, we must remember that we are in the world, but not of the world. We are here as ambassadors for Christ, with a heavenly calling.

Important Teachings

1. God uses faithful parents to instill faith in their children (2:1-2).
2. The faithful do their best and then trust the care and future of their children to God (2:3-4).
3. God preserves the posterity of the faithful to further His cause (2:5-8).
4. As godly parents carefully nurture their children during their formative years, the groundwork is laid for them to choose right (2:9-10).
5. Identifying with God's people is a personal choice of faith (2:11).
6. Faithful men in their humanity may, in well-intentioned zeal, sometimes miss the mark of God's sovereign purposes (2:12).
7. God may use disappointment and reverses to develop and refine faith (2:13-15).
8. God enables His people to find rest and contentment as sojourners in a strange land (2:16-22).

Answers to Questions

1. How was God's providence evident in Moses' early years?

The daughter of Pharaoh spied the ark containing Moses when she came to bathe in the river. She had compassion on the baby and responded favorably to Miriam's request to find a nurse for Moses. She permitted Moses' mother to care for him, thus allowing his parents the opportunity to teach and train him in his formative years.

2. What motivated Moses' mother to place him in an ark in the river? Moses' parents were godly and had a healthy attitude toward the sanctity of human life. Moses' mother, after three months, could no longer hide Moses. She therefore made the ark for Moses and placed him in the river, stationing Miriam to watch what would become of him.

3. What should parents be doing for their children in their formative years?

They should be instilling in their children the fear of God by helping children to submit to parental authority. This is not accomplished in a day, but is done by consistently teaching, training, and disciplining. Parents need to be living a satisfied life as pilgrims and strangers in this world.

4. What goals should godly parents have for their children?

They should desire, first and foremost, that their children would yield their lives to the Lord when He speaks to them. Parents should also desire that their children who are Christians would be examples of the believers (1 Timothy 4:12). Parents should desire God's will to be accomplished for their children. Godly parents desire their children to be useful in God's kingdom, whenever and wherever He leads.

5. Enumerate the costs of Moses' choice to identify with the people of God.

He was ready to give up his place as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He was also ready to suffer affliction with God's people and to reject the pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:24-25). He was ready to be misunderstood by his brethren (Acts 7:25).

6. What does it cost today to identify with God's people?

Those who identify with God's people may be labeled as narrow-minded, unloving, or following man-made rules. Those who identify with God's people must be ready to stand as a minority in opposition to those who live to serve self.

7. How did God use disappointment in Moses' life to further prepare him for his work to deliver Israel from Egypt?

When Moses needed to flee Egypt, God led him to Midian where he became familiar with wilderness life. This no doubt was valuable in later leading Israel through varied situations. God helped Moses prepare to be a servant to Israel by leading him to servant experiences in Midian.

8. Why should service to others be a part of every leader's preparation?

The work of leadership in a very real sense is a work of service. Attitudes of humility, gentleness, and patience are indispensable in leadership work.

Summarizing the Lesson

Sometimes finite men become impatient and tend to run ahead of God's work in their lives. We do well to carefully evaluate our feeling of rest-

lessness or impatience. Faithfulness in what is at hand to do now will often enhance God's workings and preparations for the future. May we be responsive to God leading us today, so He can continue to lead us throughout life.

Research Guide

1. Read the chapter entitled "Christian Service" (pages 449-456) in *Doctrines of the Bible*.
2. Study the life of Joseph to understand how God prepared him for future usefulness.