

Lesson 2 - 6 February 2011

God Prepares a Deliverer

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

Lesson Focus

As Exodus 2 opens, we see Amram and Jochebed acting in faith to preserve the life of their son. This son, which Pharaoh's daughter named Moses, later expressed his own faith by choosing to identify with his brethren in their affliction. God was able to use these acts of faith to carry out His purpose for His people.

In that brief span of time, from the moment Moses was taken from the ark at the river's edge until he became the son of Pharaoh's daughter, Moses' parents nurtured him in the godly environment of their own home. After that, he was schooled in the learning of the Egyptians until the age of forty (Acts 7:23), when he went to visit his brethren to see how they fared. After his slaying of the Egyptian was discovered, Moses fled from Pharaoh. He spent the next forty years of his life caring for the sheep of the man who became his father-in-law.

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.

We often regard Moses as the faithful man God used to lead Israel out of Egypt, the man through whom the Law was given, and the man who led them forty years in the wilderness. Today's lesson deals with the first eighty years of Moses' life. The story begins with the faith displayed by his parents. At age forty the story continues with Moses' choice of faith to identify with God's people. At that point, instead of becoming the leader of Israel, Moses was schooled in obscurity, serving forty years in a strange land.

These were not wasted years of inactivity and uselessness for Moses. They were years of preparation and training. By leading Jethro's sheep, Moses learned to be a leader of men. As he served Jethro, Moses gained experience which would enable him to serve God's people.

We need to understand that, in those times when it is our lot to perform lowly or menial tasks God is developing and refining faith. These times of preparation are not lost time.

God uses men and women of faith to further His purposes. Godly homes provide a sanctuary in which God can prepare individuals for His work.

Lesson Aim: To see how God prepares people of faith.

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.

Parental Initiative

[Exodus 2:1-4](#)

“And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi. ²And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he *was a goodly child*, she hid him three months. ³And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid *it* in the flags by the river's brink. ⁴And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.”

Providential Intervention

[Exodus 2:5-10](#)

“And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash *herself* at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. ⁶And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This *is one* of the Hebrews' children. ⁷Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. ¹⁰And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.”

Personal Involvement

[Exodus 2:11-22](#)

“And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹²And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that *there was* no man, he slew the Egyptian,

and hid him in the sand. ¹³And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? ¹⁴And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known. ¹⁵Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. ¹⁶Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew *water*, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How *is it that* ye are come so soon to day? ¹⁹And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew *water* enough for us, and watered the flock. ²⁰And he said unto his daughters, And where *is he?* why *is it that* ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. ²¹And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. ²²And she bare *him* a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.”

Questions For Study

Parental Initiative

1. Aside from the fact that Moses was a goodly child, what reasons did Moses' parents have to spare his life?
2. In what ways did Moses' parents show their faithfulness?
3. How was God's providence evident in Moses' early years?

Providential Intervention

4. Enumerate the costs of Moses' choice to identify with the people of God.
5. How do disappointments and reverses strengthen one's faith?
6. What are some ways God cares for His people today?

Personal Involvement

7. Why should service to others be part of every leader's training?

Analyzing the Passage

Moses' parents considered him a good child (Exodus 2:2). Another Scripture calls him exceeding fair (Acts 7:20). In Hebrews 11:23 he is described as a proper child. While these words describe his physical appearance, his parents obviously were focusing on more than that. It was faith that moved Moses' parents to hide him for three months and then to build an ark in an attempt to save his life.

When Pharaoh's daughter spared Moses' life, God was surely directing these events. Moses' parents likely were aware that the Egyptians had a religious practice of washing in the Nile. They evidently acted on that knowledge when they placed their child in the ark at the river's edge.

Moses "went out unto his brethren" (Exodus 2:11), feeling a sense of belonging to them and a concern for their plight. His rash act of killing the Egyptian, however, was not God's method, nor was it God's time for delivering Israel.

Moses' brethren did not understand his act (Exodus 2:14). His zeal had run ahead of his knowledge. Consequently, he spent forty years in the wilderness. This helped him to become acquainted with wilderness life, a benefit for a later time when he would lead Israel through the wilderness.

Moses' choice of a name for his son, Gersho ▶, shows his continuing sense of identity with his own people.

Principles and Applications

Parental Initiative

1. God uses faithful parents to instill faith in their children (Exodus 2:1-2). Moses' parents understood God's estimation of the value of human life. They acted in faith to preserve the life of their son and to provide for his spiritual nurture in a time when the future did not look bright for God's people. By faith they acted in spite of all that stood in their way, trusting that a sovereign God would bless their efforts. God desires His people to communicate the faith to their children, not fearing the opposing forces.
2. The faithful do what they can and then trust the care and future of their children to God (Exodus 2:3-4). Human efforts at times seem so feeble and ineffective. But God expects parents to do all they can for their children. He will not raise our families for us. God takes up the slack in those things that arc beyond our control.

Providential Intervention

3. God preserves the posterity of the faithful to further- His cause (Exodus 2:5-8). Those events that appear to happen coincidentally are charted by God, who accomplishes His purposes even through those who act unknowingly. Pharaoh's daughter acted in compassion for a helpless child, while God was raising up a deliverer for His people. God makes the children of His faithful followers His special charge. His angels guard and protect them.
4. The careful nurture of godly parents during their children's formative years lays' the ground work for them to choose right (Exodus 2:9-10). The

brief window of opportunity parents have to mold their children for God closes so soon. Those few short years must be fully utilized for our children's future good. Let us not be too busy to seize the fleeting moments to discipline and train them in the ways of the Lord.

Personal Involvement

5. Identifying with God's people is a personal choice (Exodus 2:11). After godly parents have done their part, it becomes the responsibility of their children to exercise their own faith. At the time Moses went out to his brethren, he was grown and no longer lived with the parents who had nurtured him as an act of their faith. How parents rejoice when their children make that choice to identify with God's people!

6. In their zeal for the cause, well-meaning persons sometimes act outside the will of God (Exodus 2:12). Errors in judgment occur at times due to human shortsightedness. God works through the conscience in the midst of such circumstances to redirect the minds of those who want to take the right way.

7. God may use disappointment and reverses to develop and refine faith (Exodus 2:13-15). To have his good intentions misjudged as he tried to help his brethren was, no doubt, a disappointment to Moses. As a consequence of this failed endeavor, Moses fled from Egypt to a place where God could further prepare him for his future work. He did not let the rejection of his brethren cause him to lose faith.

8. God expects the faithful to respond to needs that arise (Exodus 2:16-19). Before taking up the work of a leader, Moses learned how to serve others. In the land of Midian. Moses served as opportunities arose. He was content with his role as a servant in Jethro's house. Moses' character was refined in this obscure setting.

9. God enables His people to find rest and contentment as sojourners, in a strange land (Exodus 2:20-22) Knowing that he was a Hebrew helped Moses to conduct his life as an upright Israelite. As citizens of heaven, we live among the people of this world. Let us remember that we are in the world but not of the world. Our calling and purpose differ from the goals of the world.

Important Teachings

1. God uses faithful parents to instill faith in their children (Exodus 2:1-2).

2. The faithful do what they can 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 (Exodus

2:5-8).

4. The careful nurture of godly parents during their children's formative years lays the groundwork for them to choose right (Exodus 2:9-10).

5. Identifying with God's people is a personal choice (Exodus 2:11).

6. In their zeal for the cause, well-meaning persons sometimes act outside the will of God (Exodus 2:12).

7. God may use disappointment and reverses to develop and refine faith (Exodus 2:13-15).

8. God expects the faithful to respond to needs that arise (Exodus 2:16-19).

9. God enables His people to find rest and contentment as sojourners in a strange land (Exodus 2:20-22).

Answers to Questions

1. Aside from the fact that Moses was a goodly child, what reasons did Moses' parents have to spare his life?

Moses' parents believed God had a purpose for this child He had given them, though they likely did not foresee what that would be. They acted in the fear of God. They were not afraid of the king's commandment (Hebrews 11:23).

2. In what ways did Moses' parents show their faithfulness?

They risked punishment and perhaps the loss of their lives to save Moses. Their daughter, Miriam, was taught to carry out her parents' wishes. Moses' mother accepted her place as his nurse and used this time to nurture her son for God.

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

It was through God's providential work that Pharaoh's daughter found the ark beside the river. She was in a position to spare Moses' life. God's providence also placed Moses in the nursing care of his own mother.

4. Enumerate the costs of Moses' choice to identify with the people of God. Moses lost his position in the ruling family of Egypt. He forfeited his right to an inheritance in Egypt. He suffered estrangement and exile. He exchanged a life of ease and luxury for one of affliction and persecution.

5. How do disappointments and reverses strengthen one's faith?

When one's plans do not materialize, it becomes apparent that God has something else in mind. Faith becomes stronger when God's way is proven to be the better way.

6. What are some ways God cares for His people today?

He has promised to go with His people through life. He has provided the spiritual armor His people need to stand against the wiles of the devil. He

supplies all the spiritual needs His people have.

7. Why should service to others be part of every leader's training?

In the church, leaders function not as lords over God's heritage, but as shepherds of the flock. Therefore they learn to care for God's people by serving others in those years of preparation before the call comes to be a leader. They lead best who first have learned to follow.

Summarizing the Lesson

When men and women act in faith, God blesses their efforts. After they do what they are able to do, they can rest and leave the results in God's hands. He can use the incidents along the way to prepare His servants for future usefulness.

Research Guide

1. Read Stephen's narrative telling of Moses' early life (Acts 7:17-30). This account puts the early years of Moses' life into perspective.
2. Read Hebrews 11:23-27, which shows how faith in both Moses and his parents was expressed in a practical way.