Introduction: Have you ever failed at something “big”, I mean really BIG! If you have, you have probably felt like a loser, wanting to hide from all humanity until the end of time. If so, take heart and look at Moses.

**I) Our Text**

**A) Moses Failed at Delivering The Children of Israel**

**Exodus 2:11 Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" 14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.**

1) Thought he could deliver Israel all by himself.

**Acts 7:24 "And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. 25 "For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.**

a. It has been said, he spent the first 40 years of his life learning how important he was.

b. Son of Pharoah’s daughter, reared in the household of Pharoah, learned in the ways of the Egyptians.

**Acts 7:22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.**

2. Look again at the words “he supposed his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand.

a. That is a lot of “supposing’.

b. How would they know, what proofs had he provided? When had God told him to deliver his people?

**B) Moses flees of to the land of Midian**

1. A faraway place. Far away from palaces, servants, and all else Egyptian.

2. A place of safety and people.

**C) What did Moses do for the next forty years?**

**Exodus 2:16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. 17 Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. 18 When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?" 19 And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock." 20 So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." 21 Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses.**

1. He did what we do, he lived, got involved with the people around him.

2. He got married to Zipporah.

3. He had children, a son.

**Exodus 2:22 And she bore him a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."**

4. During those forty years.

a. Pharoah dies

**Exodus 2:23 Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. 24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them**.

b. Children of Israel continue to be oppressed.

5. Moses tend to the flocks.

**Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.**

a. Could have seen this as a humiliating job.

b. Have you ever talked to a cow? A dog/ Or some other animal? Perhaps Moses got to talk with the animals as he was watching them, .

**D) God Speaks to Moses on Mount Sinai**

**Exodus 3:2 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."**

1. Using the agent of an angel.

**Acts 7:30 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.**

2. Using a non-burning, burning bush.

3. God identifies Himself

**Exodus 3:6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father-the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.**

b. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

4.God’s awareness of Israel’s affliction.

**Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 9 "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.**

5. God is calling on Moses to deliver His people out of the hands of the Egyptians.

**8 "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.**

**E) Moses Gives Three Excuses**

**Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"**

1. Who am I? Perhaps Moses was thinking of his past failure, being a stranger to his own people. Pharoah’s great power compared to his lack of power.

2. They might not believe me!

**Exodus 4:1 Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"**

3. Not a good speaker.

**Exodus 4:10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."**

**F) God’s Answers**

**Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"**

1. You are the messenger of the Great I AM.

a. I am – the eternal one, later on the Jews wanted to stone Jesus when He used those words referring to Himself.

2. Gives Moses three signs to answer the issue of why they should believe Moses.

a. A staff which turns into a serpent, then back into a rod.

**Exodus 4:2 So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." 3 And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand),**

b. Sign of leprosy

**Exodus 4:6 Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow. 7 And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.**

c. Turning water into blood.

**Exodus 4:9 "And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."**

3. God gave Moses as his mouthpiece.

**Exodus 4:14 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. 15 "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.**

**II) Application**

**A) Humility is needed.**

**Numbers 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)**

1. Bible warns us many times about arrogance and pride.

**Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.**

**Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.**

2. Humility involves the ability to listen, accept correction, to learn.

3. Hard to teach someone who thinks they already know everything.

4. Be careful of false humility or using humility as an excuse to not use your abilities.

**B) God had a plan to deliver Israel.**

**Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

1. Those plans included Moses.

2. Eventually Israel will plunder Egypt.

**Exodus 3:22 "But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."**

3. Moses had to learn to rely on God’s power and His ability.

**Exodus 3:20 "So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.**

a. We must realize God’s power and ability to accomplish His purpose.

b. We also must fulfill our role in that purpose.

Conclusion: God’s plan for our salvation involved: Jesus coming and dying on the cross. His resurrection, ascension into heaven, sending the Holy Spirit to reveal all truth. We must listen to the Gospel, believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and live faithfully.