

May 21, 2025 – Moving On, Moving Up

Graduation time. Awards. Celebrate. **Plans for the future.**

It's often true: what we set out to do gets changed. Peter. Matthew.

- ① **God directs our paths.** **“The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.” – Psalm 37:23**

Moses. Lived as Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh – ruler of Egypt. **Exodus 2**
Privileged life. But he knew he was Hebrew. Didn't fully fit in.

Too often, we don't appreciate those things that make us unique.

▶ What made Moses unique is what made his calling great.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” – Jeremiah 1:5.

- **Jeremiah thought he was too young, couldn't speak. Moses too**

② **But God knows us; He qualifies those He calls. Equips.**

Moses sees an Egyptian beating one of his own people. Hard labor.

- Isn't it odd - we see injustice, something wrong... & follow up w/ wrong.

- **Ex. 2:12** - Moses “looked this way & that, and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.” 1st degree.

○ When you try to hide what you've done, you know it's wrong.

③ **“You may be sure your sin will find you out.” – Numbers 32:23**

Next day, Moses sees 2 Hebrews fighting; he asks:

“Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

¹⁴The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. ¹⁶Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

Again, Moses is concerned w/ bad treatment. Harsh. **He's a rescuer.**

- The father of the 7 daughters is "Reuel" ("Ruh-well"), a priest. He has his daughters go get Moses, invite him to dinner.
- ④ God puts the right people in our path @ just the right time.
 - They make us better; help build our strengths. Love & accept, too
- Moses is the man who came to dinner, never leaves.
 - Reuel gives his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage.
 - Moses settles down, has kids... but he's "a stranger living in a foreign land" – again.

What happened to the guy w/ all the potential? The one who lived in a palace ... the guy most likely to succeed as the grandson of Pharaoh?

- He's a shepherd... tending the flocks of his father-in-law.
 - It's easy to think – he's a fugitive. **Wasted** his life. **1 Bad choice!**
 - **God was preparing Moses.** . . directing His steps. Learning lessons.
 - **James 1:4 [CEV]** – “**you must learn to endure everything, so you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.**”
 - Moses learned to be **shepherd of sheep** before leading people
 - Don't get discouraged b/c dreams haven't happened.
- ⑤ God is preparing you... equipping you... He knows you!!!

Exodus 3 [NLT]:

Moses ...led the flock far into the wilderness & came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³“This is amazing,” Moses said to himself. “Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it.”

⁴When the LORD saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. ⁵“Do not come any closer,” the LORD warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead

them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”

When Moses led sheep to Mt. Sinai, he had no idea he was walking into his destiny. Moses had settled down... given up dreams...

- **Just when Moses has moved on/settled down**, God moves him up.

6 ** God’s calling on our lives is bigger than what we can see.

- **A fire in a bush** is going to light a fire in Moses.

○ All along, Moses was being prepared. Equipped. Matured.

○ It takes longer for some people to mature.

▪ Moses “settled down” to live, but God was **settling down his nature**. The rescuer was being rescued from himself.

- **Moses saw sheep** . . . God saw people who needed rescuing.

- **Moses saw a burning bush** . . . God saw a fire in Moses.

- **Moses saw his failure** . . . God saw his potential.

7 ** God’s plans for our lives don’t get derailed b/c we go off the rails.

- Just b/c we’ve aged, doesn’t mean we’ve been **put out to pasture**.

○ Moses is **80 years old** when he speaks with Pharaoh. **Ex. 7:7**

○ **Likely 40-50 years he was in Midian, learning to be a Shepherd.**

▪ **He already knew how to rescue, needed to learn the rest.**

▪ Me – teacher. Teaching now 15 yrs. 45 yrs of prep.

○ Give God your future... it will be wonderful. Not done w/you.