

# God Uses Ordinary People Just Like You and Me

## "Lessons from the Life of Moses"

Why was God able to use Moses so effectively? Basically, Moses lived a simple life following sound principles...

- Being yourself.
- Taking responsibility for your own life.
- Refusing to compromise your values.
- Keeping an eye on your future.

**Hebrews 11:24-28** (niv)

### .... Being Yourself.

Growing up Moses had an identity crisis. He was born Jewish but he was raised Egyptian. He had to decide at some point in his life "*Who he was going to be.*"

Moses saw his people (*the Israelites*) being badly mistreated as slaves and he could not be silent any longer. He could not deny his conscience.

**vs 24** - *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter (an Egyptian).*

Moses cut himself off from a promising career as a wealthy Egyptian and he wanted to do what God desired him to do. Moses became comfortable in his own skin.

### .... Taking Responsibility for your own Life.

**vs 25** - *Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.*

God has given each of us freedom to choose what path our lives will take. Responsible people take ownership of their decisions.

In **vs 24** Moses made his life changing decision "*When he had grown up.*" One of the signs of maturity is accepting responsibility for our own decisions.

If we want to be effective in this life God has given each of us - we need to make right choices and accept responsibility for them. And not to blame others!

### .... Refuse to Compromise your Values.

Moses clarified his values and thought them through. He internalized his values.

**vs 26** - *He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures in Egypt because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

Moses considered God's will of greater value than all of the treasures of Egypt he could have had as Pharaoh.

If we don't determine what's valuable to us in life, other people will do it for us. There are three common values that society is promoting today...

Pleasure -- Possessions -- Power

#### • Moses decided that God's purpose is more valuable than popularity.

**vs 24** - *By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.*

Moses was not impressed by himself. He basically felt, "*He'd rather be a slave fulfilling God's purpose than be the king of Egypt.*"

- **People are more valuable than pleasures.**

vs 25 - *He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.*

Moses heard the cries of his people and he said people are more important than pleasures. In order to do the right thing he chose discomfort over comfort.

Why? Because he knew that pleasure, like popularity, does not last for a significant period of time.

vs 25 *...enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.*

- **God's peace is more valuable than possessions.**

vs 26 - *He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater value than the treasures of Egypt.*

Many of us have so much to live on and so little to live for. Jesus said in **Luke 12:15** (nlt) *Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."*

It's a matter of values. We **love** people and we **use** things.

### **... Keeping an eye on our future.**

vs 26b - *...because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

The word "looking" in the Greek means "continuous action". Moses was looking ahead beyond the present and it was continuously looking forward.

vs 27 - *By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

Moses never took his eye off the goal. Even when facing the huge and daunting obstacles in front of him. We will never make progress without problems. Obstacles are what we see when we take our eyes off the goal!

### **2 Corinthians 4:16-17** (niv)

Paul says God's purpose for our life is always greater than the problems in our life. And the problems that we're facing right now have an eternal purpose.

### **2 Corinthians 4:18** (niv)

Paul is saying the things we don't see are going to outlast the things we do see.

**Hebrews 11:27b** *...he (Moses) left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

What did Moses have to endure? He had to learn to wait. When Moses was a young man, God said "You are going to be the deliverer of an entire nation."

Moses waited eighty years before he was able to take his people right up to the edge of the Promised Land. Waiting is one of the greatest tests of faith.

God's delays are not God's denials. He has every intention of fulfilling His promise. But He will do it in His time to stretch and to strengthen our faith.

## **Conclusion**

### **Hebrews 12:1-3** (niv)

Jesus did the same thing Moses did. He looked beyond the problem and saw the results. He went to the cross, not because it was going to be comfortable and easy but because He knew the result would be the salvation of millions of souls.

Our happiness is determined by our character. Our character is determined by our choices. Our choices are determined by our values. Our values are determined by our vision - what we are focused on!