

THE LIFE OF MOSES
PART 4
HEADING BACK TO EGYPT

THINK ABOUT ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED WITH MOSES

I. MEETING WITH JETHRO EXODUS 4:18

A. Moses says "Ok God, you win"

B. Imagine what is going on inside Moses at this point

1. God has called him to go lead the people out of Egypt
2. His heart and mind had to be swirling
3. God's call, Moses' objections, the journey to Egypt, what will he face there it's been 40 years since he left there

C. He approaches Jethro and says

1. "Please"
2. "Let me go that I may return to my brethren who are in Egypt"
3. "and see if they are still alive"
4. Jethro says to Moses, "Go in peace"

D. Let's think about some things here:

#1 Moses words are only partially true

- A. God was not sending Moses back to see how his people were
- B. Is a partial lie or half-lie ok? Why?
- C. Why would Moses do it?

#2 Jethro had not been at the burning bush

#3 Jethro had been good to Moses

- A. What had Jethro done for Moses over the past 40 years?
- B. He had made an investment into Moses' life
- C. Always express your gratitude to those who have impacted your life

#4 Is he showing respect here to Jethro?

- A. "Please"
- B. Always leave well

#5 Perhaps, Moses is still struggling with self-doubt

- A. While Moses may have finally agreed with God to go to Egypt
- B. He did not finish his conversation and excuses with God with great self-confidence

#6 Perhaps, Moses is embarrassed to tell Jethro of God's call

- A. "I've met with God and He is having me lead the people out of Egypt
- B. If Moses had not given Jethro an excuse to go then Jethro would have probably asked the reason Moses was going back

What can we learn?

- A. To know that you are in the center of God's will for your life is reassuring
- B. To not know you are in the center of God's will leads to timidity and self-doubt

II. MEETING WITH GOD EXODUS 4:19-23

A. God tells Moses again to go back to Egypt v.19

1. All the people who sought your life are dead
2. What would that do for Moses?

B. Moses took his family with him v. 20

1. What might that have done for Moses?
2. It is one thing if he went, another if he put his family in danger

C. Moses also took the staff in his hand

1. What should that have done for Moses?

D. God tells Moses what is going to happen (21)

1. You will go to Egypt-Yes
2. You will perform all of the wonders I have told you to do-Yes
3. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart so he will not let you go-What?

E. Why would God harden Pharaoh's heart?

1. So God can display His power through the plagues
2. To show that God is sovereign over a heart (21)
3. To show God is sovereign over all that will happen (22,23)

F. Why did Moses need to learn all this?

1. He needed to know who God is
2. He needed to know what will happen, so he does not get discouraged
3. He needed to know that all that will happen is in God's hands
4. Exodus 5:22,23

III. MEETING WITH DEATH 4:24-26

A. Moses and his family head for Egypt

1. The Lord sought to put Moses to death that night
2. Zipporah took a flint and cut off the foreskin of her son
3. She threw it at Moses' feet and calls him a "a bridegroom of blood" (26)
4. She is very angry with Moses
5. The Lord spared Moses' life

B. What is going on here?

1. Apparently, God had commanded Moses to circumcise his sons
2. Evidently, Moses had not circumcised his son
3. Why had he not done so?

C. On the other hand, Moses had to learn God is holy

1. His holiness demands obedience
2. Apparently, Moses had circumcised one of his sons but not the other

D. Why would Moses need to learn this lesson?

E. Moses may have thought circumcision was not a big deal

IV. A MEETING WITH AARON 4:27,28

A. God sent Aaron to meet Moses

1. Moses told Aaron all that God had said
2. The signs that Moses was to do
3. Aaron would be the mouthpiece for Moses

B. What is interesting is what is not mentioned

1. What did Moses share of his experience with God at the burning bush?
2. Did Moses share with Aaron his objections to God and the reason for Aaron being needed?
3. Did Aaron sense a change in Moses from 40 years earlier?
4. What questions or concerns did Aaron have about being the mouthpiece?

C. It is interesting how God prepared Aaron's heart for this

D. What would Aaron supply for Moses?

V. MEETING WITH THE ELDERS OF THE HEBREWS 4:29-31

A. Moses and Aaron meet with the elders of Israel (29-31)

1. Aaron is the speaker and told the elders what God had said (30)
2. "He" then performed the signs
3. The elders responded by believing
4. "then they bowed low and worshipped" (31)
5. The elders had responded just as God had said they would
6. What would that have done for Moses?

VI. MEETING WITH PHARAOH 5:1-23

A. Their words to Pharaoh (5:1-5)

1. Moses and Aaron say, "thus says the LORD, the God of Israel"
 - a. LORD =
 - b. God=
 - c. "says"

2. "Let my people go that they may celebrate a feast to me in the wilderness"
 - a. "feast"
 - b. "in the wilderness" Exodus 8:26
3. Pharaoh's response (2)
 - a. "Who is the LORD"
 - b. "that I should obey His voice and let Israel go?"
 - c. "I do not know the LORD and besides, I will not let Israel go"
4. Why this response?

B. Moses and Aaron's response (3)

1. The God of Israel has met with us
2. "please let us go a three days journey into the wilderness so we may sacrifice to the LORD"
3. Otherwise, He may fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword

C. Pharaoh's response (4,5)

1. He was unmoved by their threats
2. Instead he states that Moses and Aaron were disturbing the workers

D. Pharaoh's command (6-9)

1. The taskmasters were to no longer give the people straw to make the bricks
2. But the quota of bricks per day is to stay the same
3. What would this do to the Hebrews?
4. The reason

E. The taskmasters' actions (10-14)

1. You go get straw for yourself v.10,11
2. "So the people scattered throughout all the land of Egypt" v. 12

F. The foremen's response (15-21)

1. They complained to Pharaoh v. 15-16
2. Pharaoh's response is the same as before, "you are lazy" v. 17
3. When the foremen leave Pharaoh, they meet Moses and Aaron v.21

G. Moses' response v. 22,23

1. "O Lord, why?" v.22
2. "have you brought harm to this people?"
3. "Why did you ever send me?"
4. "You have not delivered Your people at all" v. 23
5. So, where is the blame to be put?
6. What has Moses forgotten completely?
7. Exodus 4:21

VI. SOME LESSONS FOR LIFE

A. Who is walking with me through this season or challenge of life?

1. Ecclesiastes 4:9,10

B. Where am I vulnerable right now?

C. The challenges of life make us dependent on God and not others or ourselves

1. Psalm 31:14,15

D. Sometimes, you will stand alone but God is faithful Exodus 6:1