

The Life of Moses

• Lesson Three •

God Gives Moses a Powerful Message

1. God does not change, nor do his promises
2. Powerful signs to back up a powerful message
3. God gave Moses what was needed to preach his Word

Worship

In the face of persecution, the apostles Peter and John declared, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). Neither can we! That’s one reason we’re here! The more we learn of God’s Word, the better we can speak it.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:5-14

L: For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.

G: For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

L: But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

G: We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;

L: Perplexed, but not in despair;

G: Persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

L: We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus,

G: So that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

L: For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake,

G: So that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. . . .

L: It is written: “I believe; therefore I have spoken.”

G: With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,

L: Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead

G: Will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you for taking hold of our hearts and claiming us as God’s children through faith in Jesus. You have given us the message of life. Move us to set aside our lame excuses for not spreading it. Wherever you put us, motivate us to share your never-changing gospel. We pray with faith in our Savior. Amen.

Introduction

Surveys indicate that public speaking is near the top of most people's list of least favorite activities. On some surveys it surpasses skydiving!

Think back to the first few times you had to make a public speech. How did you feel on the night before and the day of the speech?

What makes people hesitant and fearful to speak in public?

Studying God's Word

Last week we heard the Lord speaking to Moses from the fiery bush, "Now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out Egypt" (Exodus 3:10). We are still at the fiery bush to consider how God called Moses to be his spokesman.

God does not change, nor do his promises

Read Exodus 3:13-17

1. What was the first fear Moses expressed after God gave him his commission? (verse 13)

2. How did God calm Moses' fear? (verses 14 and 15)

3. What does this name tell us about God? (verses 16 and 17)

His Word in My Life

God's name is everything he has revealed to us about himself in Scripture. As the great "I am," our eternal God never changes. What comfort does this give you? What difference does this make when it comes to speaking about him?

If God and his message could change, what problems would that pose for our faith?

Discuss the following statement: Because the world around us is changing, the Christian church too needs to change to keep up with the times.

"[God] will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself" (2 Timothy 2:13). God revealed himself to Moses as the "I AM," the God who never changes. Moses knew that the work God had in store for him was part of a plan God had conceived long ago.

Powerful signs to back up a powerful message

Read Exodus 4:1-9

1. What is Moses' second fear about carrying out God's commission? (verse 1)
2. What signs does God provide for Moses? (verses 2-9)
3. Why does God give Moses these signs? (verse 5)

His Word in My Life

God provided a sign for Moses. Fifteen hundred years later, Jesus said to the Pharisees, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matthew 12:39,40). Why did God consider it appropriate to give Israel a sign and yet refuse to give the Pharisees a sign?

What’s the difference between our asking for guidance and wisdom from God and our asking for a sign from God?

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God gave Moses what was needed to preach his Word

Read Exodus 4:10-16

1. Why was Moses still hesitant to speak for God? (verse 10)
2. How did God calm Moses’ fears this time? (verses 11 and 12)
3. Moses still argued: “O Lord, please send someone else” (verse 13). What further assistance did God provide for Moses? (verses 14-16)

His Word in My Life

1. The Bible calls us “Christ’s ambassadors” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Why?

2. Sometimes we are like Moses—reluctant to speak the gospel. What common excuses might we make for not speaking? How do we get past them?

3. Discuss what an ambassador can't do. How does that apply to us as "Christ's ambassadors."

4. It's an ambassador's job to speak for a higher authority. What do you think of this statement: It's the Christian's job to speak for God!

Discuss the following questions: Are there ever times when we shouldn't share the Word of God? Are there better times than others for us to share the Word of God?

Moses was afraid to assume leadership and confront Pharaoh. But God gave him all he needed to successfully carry out his mission. Fear intimidates. God bolsters. The gospel compels!

Summary

Moses, who had been so eager to assume leadership in Israel 40 years before, now had more excuses than he had zeal. But God did not write him off. He gave him all he needed to do his work—even a sharp rebuke. The writer to the Hebrews could call Moses one who was "faithful in all God's house" (Hebrews 3:2). If God could lead and equip reluctant Moses to be faithful to his work, he can do the same for us.

Life with God

Fill in the blanks: Our lesson has dealt with the high points of the Bible’s account of this portion of Moses’ life. Fill in the blanks by reading Exodus 3:13–4:31. If you wish, read *Exodus* (The People’s Bible commentary) on these verses. If you are reading all of Exodus through Deuteronomy, continue by reading Numbers 1–18.

- Day 1: Make an opportunity today to have a conversation with a fellow believer centered on the Word of God.
- Day 2: Memorize Romans 1:16: “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”
- Day 3: Look for the opportunity to share the powerful gospel with someone outside the church.
- Day 4: Memorize Hebrews 4:12: “The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”
- Day 5: Prepare for the next lesson and see the power of God’s Word by reading the account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1–41.
- Day 6: Prepare for the next lesson and see the possible “unpleasant” results of proclaiming the Word by reading the account of the martyr Stephen in Acts 6:8–7:60.