

January 21, 2024

Welcome to the Ministry

Text – Hebrews 11:23 – 29; Numbers 20; Hebrews 11:13 - 16

Congregational Reading – Hebrews 11:23 – 29

Introduction

In our daily devotions we have recently begun reading the Book of Exodus. The main character in Exodus besides the Lord is Moses. Moses was tasked by the Lord with delivering the people of God out of Egypt and delivering them into Canaan, the Promised Land. As we read through these chapters, we will get a little glimpse of what it is like to be involved in the ministry. The ministry is the highest calling a person can be called to, and it is mostly very enjoyable and fulfilling, but it has its challenges and trials as well.

Today, I want to review some of the chapters in Moses' life, beginning with when God called Him into His service.

I. **God Enlisted Moses – Exodus 3:1 – 10**

God called Moses to deliver the people of God out of their bondage in Egypt to the land that He had originally promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the land of Israel, or Canaan as it was referred to back then.

I remember very clearly the calling of God upon my own life. There are three times that the Lord specifically dealt with me upon something He wanted me to do. The first was when I was called into the ministry, the second was when He revealed to me where He wanted me to go to college, and the third was when He revealed both to me and Pastor Owens that He wanted me to become the pastor of Jersey Shore Baptist Church.

God speaks to us generally through His revealed will, the Word of God, but occasionally, God will tell us something specifically, which will always agree with the Bible had already been telling us.

The remainder of this chapter will speak about the excuses that Moses was offering God as to why He wasn't the man for the job. Moses was not thrilled about this scary job that God had for him, and he was trying to get God to get somebody else to do it.

II. **God Empowered Moses – Exodus 4:1 – 9**

God gave Moses some miraculous abilities, which proved to both Pharaoh and Moses own people that he was sent by God. The miracles that were done by God through Moses were proof that God was more powerful than the mighty King of Egypt.

God uses miracles during periods of great transition. He did it here when bringing Israel out of Egypt. He did again when transitioning from the period of the Old Testament Law to the time of

the New Testament Church. Jesus and even many of the apostles and other first century saints could do some miraculous things. In the future, during the Tribulation Period, God will once again manifest His power in miraculous ways.

III. **God Equipped Moses** – Exodus 4:10 – 17

Like his empowering, Moses was also equipped with everything that he would need to do what God was calling him to do. We have that same promise today:

*"19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:19)*

IV. **God Elevated Moses** – Numbers 12:1 – 8

On more than one occasion God revealed to the people that Moses was his choice for the leader of Israel. There were times that the people rebelled and tried to overthrow Moses and Aaron, but God intervened and put down the rebellion.

V. **God Escorted Moses** – Exodus 33:7 – 23

God was with Moses every step of the way. God guided him and protected him. God gave Him wisdom and provided for his every need.

VI. **God Encouraged Moses**

"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain." (Exodus 3:11-12)

Many times, God told Moses that He knew that the problems that he was facing was because the people were "stiff-necked" and rebellious. In fact, twice God threatened to wipe out the people of Israel and make a new nation beginning with Moses. Moses interceded for the people on both those occasions.

VII. **God Expected Much from Moses**

The ministry is not easy. The devil will fight you; the world will mock you, and the people of God will often resist you and sometimes even rebel against your leadership. And, if that is not bad enough, many times you will often be in a battle against your own flesh, sometimes second guessing whether what you are doing is right.

Turn to Numbers 20

In Numbers 20, we get a little glimpse of what life was like for Moses as he fulfilled God's will.

[The following is an excerpt from blog article from February 22, 2015.]

Sometimes life stinks. How is that for a blunt statement. Oh for sure, there also many, many great moments in life, and tremendous blessings; but there are also times when it is difficult to drag yourself out of bed. And, for whatever reason, God chooses to allow us to go through these rough days.

Think about the things that Moses had to deal with as the leader of God's people here in Numbers 20. The chapter opens with the death of his sister. When a loved one dies, it can certainly be a time of discouragement. I am sure that Moses was more than a little sad at the passing of his sister. However, it does not stop there. The very next verse tells us that at that time there was another shortage of water, which caused the people to "chide" with Moses. Didn't they understand that he had just buried his sister? I mean, give the guy a break, will ya. Give him some time to mourn.

God next told Moses to speak to the rock for the people to get water, but the next thing we find out is that Moses lost his temper, and smote the rock, instead of just speaking to it. God was not happy with Moses, and Moses lost his ticket to the Promised Land as a result. I feel bad for the guy, and I can understand the way he felt, as well as the way he acted. There have been many times when I have used poor judgment and have acted rashly when the pressure was on in my life.

Moses then gets into a dispute with the people of Edom. They refuse to let the children of Israel to pass through the land, and though Moses could have destroyed them in battle, he moves the entire congregation around Edom in respect to their wishes.

The chapter closes out with another tragedy, the death of his brother, Aaron, seemingly also a result God's judgment for Moses' striking the rock. So, in one chapter Moses loses his sister, his brother, his future leadership position in Canaan; not to mention the fact that the people were ticked off at him. I would have quit. Moses didn't. He kept going – even though it hurt. Read the next chapter, and you will find Moses continuing in leadership, and fighting battles for the Lord.

I don't know what you are facing today, but I know that you need to keep going. Moses didn't quit, and neither should you.

Here is the message?

How could Moses put up with all that he put up with as He ministered in the will of God to God's people? How are you going to endure all the trials and hardships that will come your way as you minister for the Lord today?

You must see beyond this life.

Too many Christians are living today with the goal of being happy in this life. This life is not the end of the game. Heaven is the end of the game. Don't look for your reward here. Look to labor here, to fight the battle here, but look for your reward in Heaven.

Turn to Hebrews 11:13 – 16

By the way – this doesn't only apply to your ministry; it applies to every other area of your life.

Conclusion

VIII. God Exalted Moses in Heaven

Moses got his reward.

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him." (Matthew 17:1-3)

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." (Revelation 15:2-3)

In the ministry, there will be many, many good days. Days that are rewarding, fulfilling, and joyous. But there will also be very difficult days filled with trials and heartache. But once your service down here on earth is complete, you will have nothing but good days in Heaven. Don't quit before you get there. Heaven is where you receive the reward.

Closing Illustration – Show the picture that got me through Bible college.

