More Than Good Intentions February 26, 2023

*Exodus 2:11-25 Series: How God Shapes a Person for Impact*

One trouble with earnestness is that those who are possessed by it so often take it as proof certain that they are on God's side. - Eliot Porter

Intro: How could he lose?

1. To make a difference, you need God’s wisdom
2. Moses had a mind and a heart to serve

Acts 7:22-23 *And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds. When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.*

v. 11 *One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.*

Hebrews 11:24-25 *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.*

1. Education and compassion aren’t enough

v. 12 *He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*

* Moses seemed like the perfect deliverer. Why was he such a failure initially? What was wrong about what Moses did?
* Have you ever tried to do something good and felt frustrated that God wasn’t blessing it? What happened?
* What are some ways God might call us to be “mistreated with the people of God” today?

1. To make a difference, you need God’s motivation
2. Moses was passionate about justice

v. 13 *When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?”*

v. 17 *The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.*

1. What will keep you serving when no one says thank you?

v. 14 *He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”*

v. 15 *When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.*

v. 19 *They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.”*

v. 20 *He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.”*

Exodus 14:11 *They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?”*

1. Our motivation to serve has to come from God

2 Corinthians 5:14 *the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died*

* What are some of the human motivations for doing good? What’s wrong with just being motivated by them?
* Why do people complain to leaders so much?
* How do you learn to find your motivation in God?

1. To make a difference, you need God’s humbling
2. Moses becomes a nobody with nothing for 40 years

v. 21 *And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.*

Exodus 3:1 *Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law*

Genesis 46:34 *every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians*

v. 22 *Moses names his son Gershom because “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”*

1. God humbles us to teach us to rely on Him not ourselves

2 Corinthians 12:7 *So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*

2 Corinthians 12:9 *But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

1. Nothing changes unless people persevere in prayer

v. 23 *the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help*

v. 24 *God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant …*

v. 25 *God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.*

* What would have been hard about Moses’ 40 years in Midian?
* How would his leadership have differed if his life was easier?
* How does God teach us humility through suffering?
* Why does it matter that God remembers, sees, and knows?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Exodus 3:1-15

Notes