

w/b 1st May 2016 MOSES – LEADER ON THE EDGE OF DISASTER

LIFE APPLICATION

Exodus 2:11- 25 Moses flees to Midian
New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

¹¹One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹²Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, 'Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?'

¹⁴The man said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?' Then Moses was afraid and thought, 'What I did must have become known.'

¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. ¹⁶Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

¹⁸When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, 'Why have you returned so early today?'

¹⁹They answered, 'An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock.'

²⁰'And where is he?' Reuel asked his daughters. 'Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat.'

²¹Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage. ²²Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,^[a] saying, 'I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.'

²³During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

DISCOVERY

- As we read this passage, we can see that Moses made a number of assumptions that turned out to be wrong. From looking at this passage, what do you think they might have been?
- What aspects of Moses's character or upbringing caused him to make these wrong assumptions?

UNDERSTANDING

- Verses 11 & 12 show both good as well as bad qualities in Moses. What were the good and what were the bad? As you read these few verses, what was the main aspect of Moses's character that God needed to work on?
- How does Acts 7:23-25 help us understand the mind of Moses?
- What is the main aspect of your character that God needs to work on?
- As Andy pointed out in his preach on Sunday, when we do something in secret, there is usually something wrong with it. Think of other examples in the bible where things were done in secret. What was the outcome?
- What are some of the things that we can do in secret that we would rather keep from others?
- Moses's next encounter with his fellow Hebrews did not go as planned (verses 13-14). He saw himself as Judge and Saviour but ended up as wretched criminal fleeing for his life. Why was God not prepared to use Moses at this particular stage in his life? What does this teach us about how and on what terms, God is prepared to use us?
- As Moses arrives in Midian he is confronted with another inequality this time with some pretty shepherd girls at a well. What are some of the key lessons that God is teaching Moses through this encounter and what followed?
- Why did God allow Moses to be the hero in this story but not in the others?

APPLICATION

- Reflect on these two quotes by Charles Swindoll
'When the self life runs its course, it settles in a desert' &
'When the self life sits down (in the desert) the well of a new life is near'.
(Swindoll – Moses A man of selfless dedication Word publishing)
- What do these two quotes mean?
- How might they apply to your life?
- Spend time praying for members of the group to whom they might apply