

Pastor Jim Jackson, 1/17/16

Exodus: Finding Freedom, pt. 3—Moses the Murderer

Exodus 2:11-2:25

Moses REACTS for his people

Providentially, Pharaoh's daughter had found an infant, adopted him, and named him Moses (Heb. *mawshaw* 'to draw/pull out', Ex. 2:10). Though ethnically a Hebrew from a slave family, Moses grew up in royal privilege and received the best education of his day (Acts 7:22). When he was forty years old, he was out observing the slave labor of his people, and upon seeing an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. While it isn't clear if Moses murdered the Egyptian from anger, pity, righteousness, or to show his Hebrew loyalty, his actions were out of place. Divine justice never hides behind the veil of human vengeance (Rom. 12:19). *Offended personal sensibilities does not automatically equal divine moral imperatives.*

Moses is REJECTED by his people

Moses later saw two Hebrews fighting and offered to settle their disagreement. Instead of accepting his help, they mock him and wonder if he will kill them too (Prov. 26:17). Seeing they didn't view him as an ally, Moses escaped hundreds of miles east to the land of Midian (modern Saudi Arabia). Though God could have possibly used him as Egyptian royalty to bring about reforms, Moses' hasty action jeopardized his God-given situation and influence. Whether from immaturity or ignorance, Moses desired to be a savior but didn't have the necessary skill, right timing, or power of God to perform the task (Acts 7:25). *Purposes for God without the power and plan of God, brings failure without God!*

Moses RESCUES other people

In the desert, Moses sat down at a well and saw women trying to get water for their flocks, but were run off by other shepherds. So, Moses bravely 'stood up' to save the weak (Ps. 82:3, 4). The women were seven daughters of Reuel/Jethro, priest of Midian, a distant cousin who Moses ended up living with and working for (Gen. 25:2). Moses would later marry Zipporah, who birthed his first son, Gershom. From privileged, single prince to poor, married father, God often uses our family and financial situations to mold us. *Though Moses' failed before, God's people are defined by His promises, not their problems (vs. 24)!*