

FAULTS & FAITH: Moses
Wesley Sabio · 7/28/2024 · Various Passages

“The Bible NEVER flatters its heroes. It tells us the truth about each one of them in order that against the background of human breakdown and failure we may magnify the grace of God and recognize that it is the delight of the Spirit of God to work upon the platform of human impossibilities.” — The Making of a Man of God by Alan Redpath

Moses lived a total of 120 years and you can break up his life into 3 sections of 40 years:

- Moses spent the first 40 years of his life in Egypt as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter **learning something.**
- Moses spent the next 40 years of his life in Midian **learning that he was nothing.**
- Moses spent the last 40 years of his life wandering in the wilderness **learning that God was everything.**

Takeaway #1: God’s calling is matched with God’s empowering.

Exodus 3:1-11, 1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. **3** So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up.” **4** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” **5** “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the palace where you are standing is holy ground.” **6** Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. **7** The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey - the home of the Canaanites, Hitties, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” **11** But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Application: Be mindful of your weaknesses, but don’t be mastered by them. It is healthy to remain humble, but it’s unhealthy to remain stagnant when God is telling you to move.

1 Thessalonians 5:24, *The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10, 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 about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. **10** That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Exodus 32:7-14, 7 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. **8** They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ **9** “I have seen these people, “the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. **10** Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.” **11** But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? **12** Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. **13** Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” **14** Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Takeaway #2 - God’s mercy received leads to God’s mercy extended.

“Mercy is an attribute of God, an infinite and inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively compassionate. Both the Old and the New Testaments proclaim the mercy of God, but the Old has more than four times as much to say about it as the New.” — Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer“

That God is rich in mercy means that your regions of deepest shame and regret are not hotels through which divine mercy passes but homes in which divine mercy abides. It means the things about you that make you cringe most, make him hug hardest. It means his mercy is not calculating and cautious, like ours... Our sins cause his love to surge forward all the more. It means on that day when we stand before him, quietly, unhurriedly, we will weep with relief, shocked at how impoverished a view of his mercy-rich heart we had.” –Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund

Matthew 5:7, *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Application: As we receive God’s mercy, let’s share it with others.

Numbers 20:2, 7-12, 2 *Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. 7 The LORD said to Moses, 8 “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.” 9 So Moses took the staff from the LORD’S presence, just as he commanded him. 10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” 11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. 12 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”*

Takeaway #3 - God’s heart should be mirrored in godly leaders.

Application: We’ve been entrusted as God’s ambassadors to this world as ministers of reconciliation and we’ve been invited to join God in His work to seek and save the lost. Rather than react and operate solely in our flesh, let’s purpose in our heart, relying upon the strength of the Spirit to follow Jesus’ example and to show God for who He really is.

Moses was just like us. He was imperfect, yet by God’s grace, still usable. Just like us, he had highs and lows, but one thing remained constant, He trusted God. He had faith in God. In fact, he’s in a list of spiritual giants recorded in Hebrews 11, which is famously called the “Hall of Faith” which is a list of people who weren’t perfect, but who entrusted their lives to a perfect God.

Jesus came to be one of us. He lived the life we couldn’t and took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. And the good news is that anyone who puts their trust in Him - turning away from their sin and embracing Christ as Savior, will be saved. He invites us into a life of following Him, embracing His offer of life to the full. If you know Jesus in this way today, continue leaning into that relationship. If not, submit your life to Him by faith and commit to following Him. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone, for God’s glory alone. And I encourage you to come to Him today.

3 Takeaways:

1. God’s calling is matched with God’s empowering.
2. God’s mercy received leads to God’s mercy extended.
3. God’s heart should be mirrored in godly leaders.

3 Questions for Reflection:

1. Is God calling me to take a step of faith, trusting that He will empower me?
2. Is there anyone I can show mercy towards, because I’ve been shown mercy?
3. Is there anything in my life that is preaching something about God that is contrary to who He really is?