

Vacation Bible School

MOSES: FROM EXCUSES TO DELIVERANCE

May 14, 2016

Justin D. Reed
Wood Church of Christ

The information included in this packet is not meant to be exhaustive; it is, however, a starting place. Feel free to take the info here and adapt it to your class/time. If the class wants more discussion, so be it. (Try to keep it relevant to the subject!)

Each section is divided up into different class ages. Some areas have more info than others. Within each section, handouts, quizzes, crafts, and outlines are included. Once again, you are more than welcome to add your own material and knowledge on the subject.

This VBS is designed to be a one-day meeting. This format allows for ease on every one attending, especially those involved in teaching the classes. I have divided this topic up into two areas: "The Excuses." This session is taken from Exodus 3:1-4:17 and concerns Moses and the Burning Bush. Moses repeatedly tried to make excuses with God; God, however, does not take excuses. This is a story that captivates both the young and old and has applications for each.

The second session is entitled "The Deliverance." This session focuses on the ten plagues recorded in Exodus 7 – 12. In this "famous" Old Testament story, God shows how much He cares for His own children as He delivers them out of the hands of the Egyptians.

Please look this packet over and even make notes accordingly. As always, corrections and suggestions are always welcome.

In Him,



Justin D. Reed

Justin Reed
Minister, Wood Church of Christ

P.S. From here on out, material will be placed in odd formats. My comments will be placed in brackets where needed.

Session 1: The Excuses

Sermon on Moses

Date written: August 31st, 2003

Scripture ref: Exodus 2:1-3

SUBJECT: Biography

TITLE: Lessons from the Life of Moses

PROPOSITION: To look at four lessons from the life of Moses regarding: 1) Shunning Sin, 2) Patience, 3) Excuses, and 4) [Meekness](#)

OBJECTIVES: Each should come out of this sermon with a little more knowledge of Moses and his life.

AIM: To help all understand more about Moses and the good example of faithfulness he sets for us today.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read: Exodus 2:1-3

2. About the Text:

1) We are thus introduced to the man God used to save the people of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

2) Moses lived 120 years and provided a great example for us of how we should live today.

3) His life contains many great lessons beside the ones we are discussing tonight.

3. Ref. to S, T, P, O, and A.

DISCUSSION: The life of Moses teaches us lessons regarding...

I. SHUNNING SIN

1. Read Hebrews 11:24-26 "By faith..."

2. Moses refused what likely would have been a lifetime of luxury. Notice Acts 7:22 "*And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.*"

3. Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, Exodus 2:11-15, Acts 7:24 "*And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:*"

4. He ended up leaving Egypt to be with the Midianites and there he continued to suffer affliction.

5. Thus did Moses esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.

II. PATIENCE

1. Moses wanted to be the deliverer for the people of Israel, but not in God's time, Notice Acts 7:25-28

2. Moses then worked for another 40 years before God was ready for him. Acts 7:30 *"And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush."*

3. A patient Moses was finally ready to bear fruit, Luke 8:15 *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."*

4. Psalm 27:14 *"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."*

5. Luke 21:19 *"In your patience possess ye your souls."*

III. EXCUSES

1. Read Exodus 3:11, 12; 3:13; 4:1, 2; 4:10, 11; 4:13, 14

2. Moses made excuses for not wanting to do God's will, but God did not take kindly to these excuses.

3. Today God says, "Seek ye first..." Matthew 6:33

4. God says, "Do all to the glory of God" 1 Corinthians 10:31

5. How many times to do we say, "I can't, because _____?"

6. We can do all things through Christ! Philippians 4:13

7. Are we seeking to excuse ourselves from our responsibilities or do we humbly submit to God's will?

IV. MEEKNESS

1. We read in Numbers 12:3 *"(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)"*

2. Moses was meek, but he was not weak!

3. We should be meek, but not to compromise God's truth. Moses never did this.

1) Instead we see Moses as the man who was in Mt. Sinai 40 days and nights when the rest of Israel was frightened at the voice of God.

2) We see him as a bold and courageous leader of God's people.

3) We see him as someone who defied the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

4. Meekness is a trait which we as Christians should have. Notice Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

5. Meekness is one of the items listed in the fruit of the Spirit. Gal.5:23

6. It is something that we need to receive God's word. James 1:21 "*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*"

CONCLUSION:

1. Moses life has many lessons to teach us. Let us learn these few regarding...

1) Shunning Sin

2) Patience

3) Excuses

4) Meekness

2. Invitation

1) If you are a Christian but have fallen away

a. Moses' life serves as an example of faithfulness and as such calls you back to God.

b. Moses did not let pleasures of this world interfere with his responsibilities toward God.

2) If you are not a Christian this morning...

a. Be one this hour.

b. Heed the plan that it has for man's salvation today!

[[Great source to start with.]]

The Faith of Moses, by Kevin Cauley

One can hardly begin thinking about the faith of Moses without considering the inspired penman's comments in Hebrews 11:23-28.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

We learn from this passage that the faith of Moses began with his parents who defied Pharaoh's command. That same defiance cropped up in Moses' own life as he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and when he finally forsook Egypt. These things were not done for defiance sake, however, as the inspired penman tells us. Moses did these things looking to "the recompense of the reward" and "as seeing him who is invisible." Moses was defiant toward Egypt because he believed in something greater than what Egypt had to offer; He believed in the existence of and the promises of God.

Nevertheless, the faith of Moses wasn't always perfect. We find, in fact, there were several occasions when the faith of Moses wavered. We wonder where his faith went when we witness his flight after the Israelites rejected him as their leader (Acts 7:23-29). We ponder how he could, in the presence of God, doubt himself even as God promises to be with him (Exodus 4:10-17). We pause when we see his noble visage wrinkled with anger at the children of Israel and in disobedience strikes the rock to which God had simply said speak (Numbers 20:1-13). Despite these failings, Moses legacy is one of faithfulness. Let's notice a few things about the faith of Moses.

First, **the faith of Moses was a faith that faltered.** We mentioned some of the times when Moses faith was less than stellar. He had times in his life when he gave up, had self doubt, and even deliberately disobeyed God. Regardless, with God's encouragement, Moses found ways to return to the Lord. In Psalm 90, perhaps after the return of the 12 spies from the land of Canaan and God's wrath with the disappointing report they brought, Moses prayed, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations" (Psalm 90:1). Moses realized that even in times when our faith falters, that it is only to the Lord that we can turn for ultimate comfort and refuge. So he says, "Return, O LORD, how long? and let it repent thee concerning thy servants" (Psalm 90:13). Yes, on occasion Moses' faith faltered, but he always came back to God when he realized his wrong. We need to let the true spirit of penitence characterize our faith as well.

Second, **the faith of Moses followed.** From the time that God called Moses to bring His people out of the land of Egypt to the time that Moses' foot set down on top of mount Pisgah, he followed the Lord. We remember many of the trials Moses had to endure: the mocking of Pharaoh's magicians; the

rejection of his message by Pharaoh; the complaints of the Hebrew people; the creation of the golden calf by Aaron; the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; the final lack of faith demonstrated by the 10 spies. In each of these times, Moses could have easily given up and thrown in the towel. Indeed at one point God Himself told Moses to just abandon the children of Israel and let Him make a nation from Moses Himself (Exodus 32:9-10). It was in precisely these times that Moses' faith shined more brightly than ever when he dedicated Himself to following the path that God had laid out before Him. Under extreme trial, temptation, and trouble Moses' faith came shining through like a beacon of hope among the fog of despair. What a tremendously faithful follower!

Finally, **the faith of Moses was a faith that finished.** While forbidden to enter into the Promised Land, Moses continued to serve God until such a time as his life was required. One can well imagine Moses walking up that rocky path to the top of Mount Pisgah and looking over into the land of Canaan. His time on earth was at an end and he had completed the task God had set before him. Yet his faith looked not finally upon an earthly plateau, but a heavenly one. We find Moses again in the gospel accounts speaking with Jesus about his death (Luke 9:31). We no longer see a Moses that is burdened by the cares of earthly life, but one who is triumphant over death and glorified, providing comfort and peace to One who would lead His people not out of a physical land of bondage, but a spiritual one. No doubt our Lord took comfort in this conversation when He declared upon the cross, "It is finished." Like Moses, he laid down His burdens of physical existence to take up a glorious heavenly one. Moses' faith was a faith that finished.

What joys and comforts the faith of Moses brings to the faithful child of God. Moses' example gives us much to contemplate. Let us take up his banner of faith in our lives each day as we may falter, follow, and seek to finish the path of faith we each have before us.

The Characteristics of Moses, by Mike Riley

In this article, let us consider some of the characteristics of Moses, Israel's great leader. In Hebrews 11:24-27, the inspired writer employs a number of verbs which describe the actions of this noble leader of Israel. These terms become a real index to the character of Moses. Let us observe four of these action verbs.

Moses "Refused" (Hebrews 11:24)

One of the most forceful words in the English language, and yet one most difficult to release from the tongue, is the word "no". It is such a challenge for some of us to master this simple word, yet at a very critical point in history, Moses said, "No!" Note the reading: "By faith Moses when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter..." (Hebrews 11:24).

Moses "Chose" (Hebrews 11:25)

Unlike the animal kingdom, God has seen fit to honor humans beings with the ability to make true choices (Joshua 24:15). We do not operate out of mere instinct; rather, we make hundreds of conscious decisions every day of our lives. Some choices are rather inconsequential; others are of greater importance – for better or worse. The character of a person is revealed in the choices he or she makes in life. So it was with Moses. It must have appeared to the carnal mind that Moses had taken leave of all common sense when he chose to identify himself with a band of foreign slaves (the Hebrews), rather than to retain his inheritance steeped in the advantages of Egypt (Exodus 2:11).

So Moses "chose" to cast his lot with afflicted Israel, rather than to defile himself with the pleasures of sin. He was a man who obviously had "counted the cost" (Luke 14:28). Moses knew that sin could be "pleasurable" (Hebrews 11:25), but he also was convinced that sinful pleasure is short lived. What a commentary on the fabric of this man in that he chose to "set his affections" upon the spiritual realm rather than the the fleeting pleasures of the physical realm (cf. Colossians 3:1-2).

Moses "Discerned" (Hebrews 11:26)

The inspired writer declared that the choice of Moses, to resist the life of pleasurable wickedness in deference to a spiritual destiny, was due to the fact that he was "esteeming" (KJV), or "accounting" (ASV) the reproach of Christ to be greater than the treasures of Egypt. The word "accounting" in the Greek denotes basically to reflect, to weigh the options before making a choice (to discern).

Let us briefly consider the phrase, "the reproach of Christ." Moses contemplated the reproach (abuse or defamation) that would be brought upon the (coming) Messiah. To deny that Moses had any concept of the promised Christ, as some have done, is wholly unwarranted. The longing for the "Anointed One" was an abiding joy in the heart of every faithful Hebrew, and doubtless, at some early point, this teaching had been communicated to Moses. This glorious hope was obviously factored into Moses' decision to join his Hebrew people.

Moses “Endured” (Hebrews 11:27)

As we read the story of Moses’s life, we see that he made some serious mistakes in his forty-year wilderness journey. In spite of his frail humanity, the significant thing about Moses is that “he endured”. The Greek word “kartereo” gives us the idea of steadfastness. This character trait is the key to achieving victory in any goal of life. How was Moses able to endure or remain steadfast? Through the eye of faith, Moses kept on “seeing him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:27). Nonetheless, Moses “saw” the Lord as he observed God’s mighty deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. He “saw” the Lord in the sustaining hand of His mercy during the wilderness wandering, and in personal communication with the Lord, i.e. “face to face” (Exodus 33:11; cf. Deuteronomy 34:10).

Conclusion

Moses was truly a remarkable person with an exemplary godly character. Nowhere else in the scriptures has that portrait been captured in such a condensed package as in Hebrews 11:24-27. Let us study this text carefully, and be encouraged by the great character of Moses.

[[Session 1:

- Scripture Text: Exodus 3 – 4:17
- Moses was called by God, yet He made excuses
- Verses for thought/discussion:
 - o I Cor. 10:13
 - o I Cor. 12:9
 - o Heb. 11:23-29
- Every time Moses complained or offered an excuse, God provided a solution.
- Things to think about:
 - o What is an excuse?
 - o Why do we make them?
 - o Are they good or bad?
 - o Why don’t we simply do what is asked/commanded of us?
- For the younger: Use the questions above and then relate them to obeying parents and God.

These are just some random thoughts, hopefully helpful. Below are some songs/poems that might also be helpful.]]

Session 2:

[[A Great way to start for either group work or individuals: Hand out an index card and give a time of 3 minutes or similar to that and have them write down the 10 plagues – in order if possible. At the end of the session, review these and see if they can get them right/how many they got correct or in the correct order.]]

Not A Hoof Shall Be Left Behind, by Mike Riley

In Exodus 7-12, we see the efforts of God through Moses attempting to persuade Pharaoh to release the children of Israel from bondage. Through a series of plagues, we see Pharaoh's heart becoming more and more resistant — the plagues of blood, frogs and lice not moving him. But when the flies came, Pharaoh offered his first compromise:

“Go, sacrifice to your God in the land” (Exodus 8:25).

When Moses refused such a suicidal attempt, Pharaoh offered his second compromise:

“I will let you go only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me” (Exodus 8:28).

God removed the plague of flies, only to have Pharaoh harden his heart and refuse to let the people go. So, pestilence, boils, and hail came, and the threat of locusts. Then came the third effort at compromise:

“Go now, you who are men, and serve the Lord” — leaving your women, children, and the flocks behind (Exodus 10:8-11).

Pharaoh did not let go without a struggle, but Moses stood firm, the locusts came and after that the plague of darkness. Now Pharaoh tries one more compromise:

“Go, serve the Lord; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back” (Exodus 10:24).

Pharaoh was saying, “Take all to serve God, except your material possessions.” Perhaps he knew their hearts would remain with the possessions — or perhaps he sought to deprive them of that which they would need to successfully carry out their new venture.

Whatever the reason, we are doomed to failure if we think we can serve God acceptably while leaving anything we possess in Satan's hands. But Moses accepted no compromise:

“Not a hoof shall be left behind” (Exodus 10:26).

As Christians, we must live in this world, but our citizenship is in the spiritual realm (Philippians 3:20; cf. Colossians 3:1-2). When we transferred our allegiance from the world to the Lord, we determined to give up the world and give ourselves to the Lord — we determined that **“Not a hoof shall be left behind.”**

Because of what we know from the Scriptures regarding Satan, we know that he will do everything he possibly can to convince us that we can serve God "in Egypt" or "just a little way out" or compromise the faith for the sake of family or possessions.

Brethren, know this: If we give Satan a hoof, he'll take a leg, loin, chuck roast and all! (1 Peter 5:8).

[[Some questions and answers on the plagues.]]

Question: As I read Exodus 7-8, I noticed that in Exodus 8:22-23, God specifically said that He will make a distinction between the Egyptians and the Israelites that the swarming of the flies will not take place in Goshen. Since God made a point of saying that here, does that mean plagues 1-3, water turn into blood, frogs, and gnats also effected the land of Goshen and the Israelites before this fourth plague?

Answer: "And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land. I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be" (Exodus 8:22-23). Yes, it does imply that the earlier plagues covered all of Egypt, including Goshen. Separating Goshen not only spared the Israelites, but it also was another indication of God's power since there was no natural boundary between Goshen and the rest of Egypt.

Question: I have always been a bit analytical, too bad it did not help me with math. My question is one that plagues me every time that I read Exodus. If all the livestock died from disease, then how could any have been around for the hail? Did a great time elapse between these to incidences? Or maybe the Egyptians acquired some from the Hebrews since theirs were not diseased?

Answer: The overall length of the ten plagues lasted less than a year since Moses was sent back to Egypt when he was 80 (Exodus 7:7) and he dies at the age of 120 after the forty years of wandering in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 34:7).

During the cattle disease, "So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died" (Exodus 9:6). God earlier said that the plague would affect the cattle in the fields (Exodus 9:3), which could mean those remaining in the barns survived this plague. As you noted, since the Israelites' cattle survived, it would not be a stretch to think the Egyptians took possession of a good number of these beasts.

The plague of boils came on both men and beasts (Exodus 9:10). So we know the Egyptians had possession of cattle again by the time of the next plague. How long of time is a matter of speculation, but it is likely to be less than a month.

"And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field" (Exodus 9:25). But not all animals were killed because the Egyptians had advanced warning. "He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses" (Exodus 9:20). However, the animals are mentioned again, so we know recovery from the earlier plague had been taking place.

[[Session 2: The Deliverance

- Describe each plagues and what it meant for the Egyptians. Also for the Israelites.
- Consider:
 - o Ex. 20 – commands of God
 - o Observance of the Passover
 - o The Passover & Jesus
- Verses to look at:
 - o Heb. 11:24-29
 - o I Cor. 5:7
- For the younger: describe the plagues and discuss why they occurred.]]

Charts – have been placed throughout the package.

Schedule for VBS:

This is the tentative schedule. It is subject to change; however, plan your lessons accordingly and ask if your students have questions. All times Central.

8:30AM-9:00AM	Registration
9:00AM-9:15AM	Singing
9:15AM-10:15AM	Session 1
10:15AM-10:25AM	Break
10:25AM-11:05AM	Session 2
11:05AM-11:30AM	Invitation, Singing, Questions
11:30AM-	Dismissal, Lunch

Useful Resources:

Puzzle Maker, create free word searches, mazes, etc. www.puzzlemaker.com

Bible Gateway, online Biblical keyword search, www.biblegateway.com

Biblos, easily compare different translations for easy study, www.biblos.com

StudyLight, online resource of over 50 different commentaries. *Make sure you check the facts on some of the commentaries, still helpful, www.studylight.org

DLTK, online resource for songs, poems, crafts, and more, www.dltk-bible.com/poems-creation.htm

Bible Charts, a great source for all occasions, www.biblecharts.org

Please use this packet as a resource to start preparing your lesson. Thank you in advance for all the studying you will put into this lesson, it will show. As you study and prepare, do not forget to pray about this VBS. Hopefully, it will be a success and help plant and cultivate many seeds. As always, remember the writing of Paul in I Corinthians 3:6:

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.