

# Remnant Life Church

November 28, 2021

## “Moses”

Pt 3

Exodus 33:12-17

Moses' life was one lived in three segments of 40 years

- The first 40 in Egypt
- The second 40 in the land of the Midians
- The third 40 in the wilderness leading the Hebrew people to Canaan

During that second period of 40 years, among other things, God was teaching Moses three important lessons that are relevant for us today

1. Lesson number one for Moses was humility
2. Lesson number two was that when God calls you to something in your life, it first has to die
3. Lesson number three was that our excuses are nothing when compared to the plans and power of God

This morning we will look at the third and last segment of forty years

- Now there are those in the Bible who are known for starting out well but finishing poorly
  - Samson would be one
    - He began as a judge over all of Israel
    - He finished dead under the rubble of a Philistine temple that he destroyed from the inside while a banquet was being given to honor their god Dagon ([Judges 16:23-30](#))
  - Lot might be considered another
    - While he is credited by the author of Hebrews as a righteous man in the 11th chapter
    - Following the destruction of Sodom and Gommorah he allowed himself to fall into a trap and be made drunk by his two daughters so that he would sleep with them to carry on the family name. ([Genesis 19:30-38](#))
    - A son was born to each of them - one named Moab and the other Ben-Ammi
    - It was from their line that the Moabites and Amonites came into being – two nations that were nothing but trouble to the Israelites particularly during the time of Saul, David, and Solomon's reigns
    - They were also a source of trouble within the kingdom itself as many of Solomon's wives were Moabites and Ammonites
  - Then of course Judas has to be considered
    - One of the original 12
    - A man many scholars believe was very close to Jesus during that time
    - But the one who betrayed him, regardless of the possible reasons for what he did, from evil to simply misguided

But Moses would not be on this list

- Moses would have, in those final 40 years, the most wonderful experiences of his life
  - He communed with God face-to-face
  - He played perhaps the most important earthly role in the birth of a nation
  - And he will accomplish the greatest and most impactful components of his role as a leader
- And don't forget, Moses was 80 years old when he began to lead the Hebrew people into the desert!
  - Never let anyone tell you or even suggest that you are too old to serve God
  - I heard the story of a 70 year old woman who wrote in to Dear Abbey to ask her advice on going back to college and getting her degree. In her letter she wrote, "When I get my degree I'll be 74 years old!" In her response, Abbey wrote back, "And how old will you be in 4 years if you don't get the degree?"

But age was obviously not an issue for Moses

- It began with the 10 plagues with the last being the first night of Passover as the death angel passed over all those in Goshen who had the blood on the lintel and posts of their door (Ex 12:12-13)
- Then they are standing at the shores of the Red Sea
  - And what did God tell Moses to do?
  - Stretch out your staff or rod over the water (Ex 14:16)
  - Don't miss the fact that there was something required of Moses for this incredible demonstration of God's power to take place
    - It wasn't much, but God wanted Moses to participate
    - Why? Because He was confirming to the people who Moses was – for any remaining doubters
  - Are you willing to participate in what God is doing in your life when He directs you to?
    - Second, what are you willing to do?
    - How far will you go to demonstrate the faith you have in God?
  - The Red Sea was an obstacle that needed to be parted for them to cross through
    - We don't carry a staff around with us today
    - Our staff is now a sword - the Spirit and Word of God
    - Note that it is a Rhema word – what does that mean?
      - It is found in the original Greek
      - Most notably in Eph 6:17 as Paul describes the most powerful weapon of the armor of God, ...*the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*
      - Rhema is a right now word, a word from HIM that gives you a sense of direction and joy and excitement of knowledge.
    - It is that right-now, Rhema word of God in your life today, that will clear the obstacles and allow you to pass through to the other side
- After they had crossed, Moses went up the Mountain of God which was Mt. Sinai (Ex 19)

- God gave him the 10 commandments and all of the law of how they should live and treat one another (Ex 20-23)
  - And while Moses was gone, the people fasted, prayed, and presented offerings of thanks and worship to God...right?
  - No! They built a golden calf and immediately returned to idol worship
- This so angered God that He was ready to wipe them out except that Moses interceded (Ex 32:7-14)
- One of the marks of a Christian who is growing is when your time of prayer is focused more on others than on yourself.
  
- Moses had an intimate relationship with God
  - The reason for that is revealed, again, in Ex 33
  - **READ** – Ex 33:12-17
  - Notice that I did not say that Moses was perfect
    - We know of the sin back at Egypt that caused him to flee to the land of the Midianites
    - No, it happened in the desert as well and it was a costly blunder for Moses
      - Moses disobeyed God and exposed his pride when he hit the rock in the desert to bring water instead of speaking to it as God had told him (Num 20:8-12)
      - Why was speaking to it important?
      - Because striking the rock made it appear to the people that Moses was the reason water was coming out of the rock
      - Moses' physical participation was important at the Red Sea but this was different
        - This was to be an object lesson to the people that God and God alone was their provider
        - Moses interfered with that lesson
      - And it cost Moses the opportunity to lead the people into the promised land – God only permitted him to see it from a mountain top
  
- You know that God did eventually allow Moses to enter the promised land
  - And it happened on, of all places, a mountain where so many of the most important times in Moses life seemed to occur
    - But it would not be for another 1400 years
  - In **Matt 17** we read that Jesus took Peter, James, and John up into a mountain area, most likely Mt Tabor in lower Galilee
    - It says that Jesus' physical appearance began to transform into His true glory
    - And two figures appeared with Him
    - One was Elijah and the other was Moses
    - Moses had arrived in the promised land at last

Moses was and is one of the most figures in all of the Old Testament

- Again, he was not perfect



- But he was willing to listen to others
  - He listened to God first and foremost for what he was to do
  - He listened to his father-in-law Jethro who told him he needed to delegate responsibilities
  - He even listened to the people regarding their needs and wants (meat to eat – Ex 16)
- And he understood the most important thing was to be in the presence of God

Moses is a wonderful example of what should be important to us today

- Like Moses was taught at the outset of his second 40 years, we must live in humility
- We must let our desires die in order to fully submit ourselves to God
- And finally, our excuses are of no importance because nothing is wasted in our lives by God when we are fully given over to Him and His will for our lives

Moses kept living for God in the very best of times and in the very worst

- Should we settle for anything less than that?
- It is through your surrender to God that He will demonstrate His power, His love, and His plans for you
- You may not get into the promised land of your life in the way you think it will happen, but if you refuse to leave God's presence, He will see that you arrive just like Moses did – but in His time.