

EXODUS 2 CONTINUED

(Exodus 2:14-25)

Last week, we left off where Moses had killed the Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew. Moses was close to 40 when this had occurred. As stated before, His motives were good but his method was horrible. Hebrews 11:24-26 describes Moses' motives as one who would rather suffer with his people than live the plush and sinful life of the Egyptian. He couldn't sit back and let stand the abuse that he witnessed right in front of him. So, he acted, but he didn't act in a manner that pleased God. He killed the man with his bare hands and then tried to bury the evidence (Exod. 2:12). But someone saw him (vv. 13-14)

A FEW POINTS:

(1) It was admirable that Moses stood up against sin and injustice, but how he addressed it didn't please God. James says that we must be quick to listen and slow to speak and slow to wrath, because our anger does not fulfill (or produce) the righteousness of God (James 1:19-20). We must be careful of trying to do the right thing the wrong way. We must pray to seek wisdom as to how to approach a situation which is just as important as praying for strength and courage to act against sin or unjust circumstances.

(2) When we sin or act unlawfully (whether that is man's law or God's law), someone always sees. Our sins will always find us out.

Moses Flees to the Wilderness (2:15-22)

Moses is afraid that these Hebrew men will tell on him as they knew his secret, that he killed a man. Or he may have thought that it was already made known. He didn't know who else saw him (2:14). This is not a good reputation to have as a leader for his people. His leadership would have been short-lived indeed. Pharaoh eventually gets word of what Moses has done and seeks to have him killed. So, Moses runs for his life from Egypt into the land of Midian.

The Midianites were distant relatives of the Hebrews. In Gen. 25:2, Midian is listed as a son of Abraham by Keturah. Moses dwells at the well in Midian (Exod. 2:15). He camped out at the well, as this was the best place to live in a desert or wilderness. He sees the 7 daughters of the Median priest come and draw water

from the well to feed their father's flock, although he probably didn't know whose family they came from. He also saw the shepherds mistreat these sisters by physically driving them away and taking the water that they drew to use for their own purposes. Moses, again could not stand for the injustice. He stepped in and defended the women. After which, he served them by watering their flocks for them (Exod. 2:16-17).

After running for his life for "interfering" in the affairs of others in Egypt, Moses could have concluded that he should mind his business, but Moses responded to the urgings of his heart as a leader and protector. He could not sit idle when he sees wrong. It was probably ingrained in him from his birth family that he could not be passive when it comes to injustice in the world. Also, God had plans for Moses even before he knew what those plans were. God placed those qualities in him so that He would soon draw it out of him.

This opened the door for Moses to meet his future wife and father-in-law. Moses was content (2:21) to be a part of this family. He would spend the next 40 years living in Midian as a shepherd and raising his family.

The kindness that Moses showed to these women and this family was returned to him 100 fold.

Some time after, the king of Egypt dies (2:23). Perhaps the new king was even more harsh against the Israelites as they groaned in their bondage. Or their groaning was the result of them having to simply endure yet more years of suffering at the hands of their captors. They were crying out to God, and God heard them and remembered His covenant with the Patriarchs (2:23-24)

Big Point: (1) Their prayers touched God's heart! He heard their cries and began to move on their behalf. Yes, God knew about their struggles year after year. He never took His eyes off of them. But that doesn't mean that we should not cry out to Him. That doesn't mean we should not express to Him how we feel. God has His timing. But we must show our continual dependence on Him and Him alone. He is moved by our suffering. "He hears our faintest cry and answers by and by!"

Psa. 120:1 says, "In my distress I cried to the LORD, And He heard me."

David says in Psa. 34:4, "I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears."

And Psa. 18:6, “In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, *even* to His ears.”

(2) He also remembers His promises towards us. Just as He remembered His covenant with their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, He remembers His promises to us in the work and ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus promised that if we follow Him, He will provide for us. If we seek first His Kingdom, all our needs will be met (Matt. 6:33). If we ask of Him, He will give to us what we need according to His will (Matt. 7:7-8). He promised that if we abide in Him, we could ask of him and He will provide (John 15:7). He promised to never leave nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). He promised to supply all of our needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

God was preparing to use Moses, even though Moses had a murderous past. We’ve all made mistakes in our past. It is by God’s grace that He chooses to use us, mistakes and all.

God gave Moses time to develop and learn of His quiet and righteous ways. He had 40 years of training in the Egyptian way. Now Moses had 40 years of training in the wilderness as a shepherd in preparation for a God encounter.

Chapter 3 describes the special and powerful encounter that Moses needed to have with God. We will look at Chapter 3 next week. Have a blessed rest of the week and weekend. See you on Sunday! 😊