

## Moses Lesson 13

### INTRO:

- A. The name "Moses" means 'drawn out of the water' which is the story we read in Exodus 2:1-10
- B. Moses wore many shoes in his lifetime: commander, judge, prophet, author, historian, teacher, and intercessor,
- C. Moses is mentioned 79 times in the N.T., and without exception he is presented as an example of faithfulness and righteousness.
  - 1. Twice in the Hebrew letter it is said, "*Moses was faithful in all his house,*" (3:2,5) and in the eleventh chapter Moses is included in "*men of whom the world was not worthy.*" (v. 38)
- D. Nevertheless, Moses did sin, and it is his sin that we want to study for it is there that we find the lessons we most certainly need to learn. **Numbers 20:2-13**

### I. THE THREE PERIODS OF MOSES' LIFE. (Each one lasted 40 years!)

- A. Infant To Adulthood (Pharaoh's house). **Exodus 2:1-15** Significant events of this period:
  - 1. A different Pharaoh rules Egypt: fears the increasing number Israelites, enforces slavery upon them to the point of killing newborn males.
  - 2. Moses, an infant, spared from death by his mother, Jochebed.
  - 3. Pharaoh's daughter finds Moses and adopts him as her son.
- B. Flees to Midian. **Exodus 2:15-4:19** Significant events of this period:
  - 1. At the age of 40 Moses makes kills and Egyptian who was punishing an Israelite.
  - 2. He is rejected by the Israelites, Pharaoh threatened to kill him, and he escapes to Midian.
  - 3. In Midian, he meets Jethro and marries one of his daughters, Zipporah, with whom he has two sons.
  - 4. Becomes a shepherd.
  - 5. Called by God out of the burning bush.
- C. Exodus to Canaan. **Exodus 4:19-Deuteronomy 34:7** Significant events of this period:
  - 1. Returns to Egypt.
  - 2. Meets with the elders of the children of Israel.
  - 3. Confronts Pharaoh.
  - 4. Leads Israel out of Egypt and 40 years later arrives at Canaan a second time.
  - 5. Moses dies at the age of 120. "*And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.*" (Deuteronomy 34:7)

### II. THE ASPECTS OF MOSES' SIN.

- A. **ANGER.**
  - 1. This is obvious from his words. "*Listen now you rebels!*"

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- a. Consider **Psalm 106:32-33**
- b. Thus, Moses' sin grew out of his anger with the children of Israel.
  - 1) How often do we tell our children, "Ask in a nice way!"
  - 2) If that rebellious generation had "*asked in a nice way*," it would have went down better for Moses.
  - 3) Nevertheless, this did not excuse Moses for his sin nor will it excuse us.
2. We must learn to be slow to anger. **James 1:19-20; Ephesians 4:26-27**
  - a. Moses' sin was not his anger, but was his acting in anger; the things he said and the things he didn't say.
  - b. Often, the disagreements we have with loved ones demonstrates the way we act when we are angry.
- B. **DISOBEDIENCE.**
  1. Moses was told to speak to the rock. (**v. 8**)
    - a. He spoke many words but none of them were to the rock!
    - b. He simply did not do what God told him to do, and he reaped the consequences.
- C. **TRANSGRESSION.**
  1. Transgression means to cross the line, to go beyond.
  2. **2 John 9** - KJV "*whosoever transgresseth...*"
    - a. ASV - "*whosoever goeth onward...*"
    - b. NASV - "*Anyone who goes too far*"; footnote: "goes on ahead."
  3. Moses sinned in the sight of God by going too far.
- D. **DISHONORED GOD. (Vs. 10, 12)**
  1. Notice: "*Must we bring forth water for you?*"
    - a. The "we" refers to Moses and Aaron. They did not mention God. He is left out of the equation.
    - b. As the Psalmist said, "*He (Moses) spoke rashly with his lips,*" (NKJV) "*spake unadvisedly*" (KJV).
  2. Verse 12 shows that they failed to hallow God in the eyes of the people.  
**Deuteronomy 32:48-52**
    - a. Thus, they did not give God His just due for providing water for the people.
- E. **UNBELIEF.**
  1. "*Because you did not believe Me.*" (**V. 12**)
    - a. True belief or faith in God is trusting in and relying on God.
  2. Moses did not show or demonstrate his faith in God.
    - a. He became angry. God requires that we control our anger.
    - b. He was disobedient. Faith is proved and perfected in obedience.
      - 1) Godly men and women proved their faith by their obedience.  
Hebrews 11
    - c. He was guilty of transgression. Definitely, what God had said was not as good as what He had not said.
    - d. He dishonored God. We need to acknowledge and praise God at all times for all things.

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III. LESSONS FROM MOSES' SIN.

- A. We may sin in the way least expected.
1. Moses was meek and humble; he was not a harsh, ill-tempered man. **Numbers 12:1-3; Exodus 3:11**
    - a. Nonetheless, his character was not demonstrated at the waters of Meribah.
  2. Look at Peter's denial of Jesus.
    - a. He never would have thought he would have done what he did.
    - b. In fact, he said he would't. **Matthew 26:35**
  3. Where we think we are the strongest, may be the place Satan attacks. **1 Cor. 10:12** *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."*
- B. No one is above sin.
1. Moses was certainly one of "greats" of the Bible. **Deuteronomy 34:10-12**
    - a. Nevertheless, Moses sinned. No one is immune from sin, not gospel preachers; not elders.
    - b. If we say we have no sin, we make God a liar. **1 John 1:8**
- C. God expects exact obedience.
1. We need to worship exactly as the truth directs. **John 4:24**
  2. Following a false way will condemn us. **Proverbs 16:25; Matthew 15:9**
- D. The end does not justify the means.
1. Israel was famished and weak, and when Moses brought forth water, they were refreshed.
  2. No doubt that stubborn and rebellious generation would have said to God, "What difference does it make - strike the rock or speak to it? The important thing is that we got water!"
    - a. Does this sound familiar?
  3. Things people say today:
    - a. Our Missionary Societies or Sponsoring church arrangements have done much good! Many people have obeyed the gospel because of them!
    - b. Our social programs are bringing in many people. Look at the good we are doing! We are drawing lots of folks to services!
    - c. Don't criticize women preachers! Look at the good they are doing and the appeal they have in reaching other women with the gospel? Can't you see that God is blessing their preaching!
  4. The end does not justify the means. Moses accomplished good, but the way he went about it was wrong. **Romans 3:8**
- E. God judges us by our actions.
1. Moses was judged on the basis of what he did.
    - a. Our standing before God is based on our actions.
  2. Today, people want to be judged by some kind of subjective faith, a mental acknowledgment or feeling of some kind.
    - a. **James 2:18**
  3. God will bring every work into judgment. **2 Corinthians 5:10**

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- F. God is no respecter of persons.
  - 1. Moses sinned, and he was punished by not being allowed to enter the promised land.
  - 2. He was forgiven of his sin, but had to suffer the consequences of the judgment of God.
  - 3. God is a no respecter of persons and, thus, God is to be feared. **1 Peter 1:17; 1 Peter 4:17-18; Hebrews 12:28-29**
- G. God is to be hallowed and praised.
  - 1. To Him belongs all the glory.
  - 2. Let us not slack from giving God His due. **Ephesians 3:20-21**
- H. We cannot let mistakes defeat us.
  - 1. Moses made a grave error, but he didn't let it defeat him.
    - a. He didn't give up nor turned from God because of his error.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Moses was a great man, but he sinned.
  - 1. All sin and fall short of God. **Romans 3:23**
  - 2. If the great man Moses was not excused from his sin, neither will we.
- B. Let us do our best relying on the Lord to help us.
  - 1. Let us not give up, give in, or give out.
  - 2. **Philippines 4:13** "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*"