



YEAR 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 3—Exodus

Lesson 2: The Birth of Moses—Exodus 2

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

(A theological and biblical reflection on today's Scripture passage.)

GOD'S STORY

While the story of Moses' birth hears no direct mention of God, the Lord's guiding hand and skillful architecture of one's path in life are on full display. The Creator knew the plight of His people and humanity long before they did and chose this moment to spin a new phase of His plan into motion through a child.

The parallels drawn between the young life of Moses and the journey of the Israelites are worth noting. God saved His people from the consequences of the world's actions by placing Noah and his family in an ark, and his descendants (Joseph) landed in Pharaoh's palace, and Moses was saved by an ark of sorts from a watery grave and was placed in Pharaoh's palace.

God's grace was certainly evident over Moses' life as an infant, as he was able to be raised at a young age by his mother. God returned Moses to her to raise, to nurse, and to pray over him knowing he would not meet the fate Pharaoh had intended for him. He would not only survive but would be considered royalty in the land.

The story seems to take a turn for the worse when Moses kills an Egyptian and is forced to flee Egypt for Midian to escape Pharaoh. As we will see, God is working in the background to free His people in the foreground. Nothing is ever wasted in His story.

OUR STORY

Moses made a horrible choice to murder another person and paid the consequences because of it. In doing so, he gave up what was certainly a quality life as opposed to being a slave and having his "life made bitter." In this sense, we aren't to follow after Moses' life but we can learn something from his heart to speak against injustice.

Our lives are often as messy as Moses and others in the Bible lived. The Scriptures offer us reflections of humanity, and we often see our lives, urges, desires, passions, and failures in theirs. We've unfortunately continued to make the same type of errors in judgment, including the cycle of adoring God for a moment and complaining to Him the next.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." He wasn't just sharing that to make us feel good when things looked bleak. He was summarizing God's long history of pulling His people out of the fire (or water) and using them to do His work here on earth. It's this facet of God that many grappled with over the years, and it's why we are all fortunate that He is God, and we are not.

OTHERS' STORY

God often uses uncommon ways to get things done through other people. In order to save and free His oppressed people, God used Pharaoh's daughter to pull the next leader of His people out from certain death. She even brought him under the same roof as his future oppressor. The softness of Pharaoh's daughter's heart towards Moses would prove to be a stark contrast with that of her father.

God also used the fighting Hebrews to reveal Moses' sin to him. His actions were known to others, which made Moses for a moment realize he was living in a much larger story than he thought. Sometimes when our secrets are brought into the light we run away, not only from the confession but from the feeling of being uncontrollably exposed to an immeasurable amount of people.

Each of these revelations came about through the lives of others. Consequently, Moses fled the country and ended up meeting his future wife. He would go on to spend 40 years in the desert on his own before leading the Hebrews for 40 years in the desert.

THE WORLD'S STORY

When the world tries to move forward on its own, God continues working in it, through it, and around it. Just as Egypt was trying to come to power on its own, God was working inside the very household of its primary leader in ways that were unknown to all. God miraculously placed Moses, a child that Pharaoh had ordered killed, in his house to be raised.

Moses would grow up to be a man of God and would lead the Israelites out of Egypt and their oppression. It's possible that you may be planted where you are for such a purpose. Although we assume that great change happens from the top down, it may very well need to occur from the inside-out. Perhaps you won't be leading a mass exodus of people into the desert, but you may be bringing them a glimpse of God in an otherwise dim world.

The world can look dark, and it's often hard to see God working. Be confident that He is aware of all things and is working. In fact, if you join Him in it you'll get to see it all firsthand.