

**SERMON SERIES: OVERCOMER
SERMON: POWER IN HUMILITY
6-23-19**

OPENER:

The Bible itself makes an astonishing claim....

Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth' (Num 12:3).

The calling and life of Moses is a remarkable story. As the Bible and history show, incredible honor was given to this man with incredible humility. What shaped this man's character, and what made him the humblest man on the earth?

If we can understand the Bible definition of a humble person and seek to fulfill it ourselves, then perhaps we, like Moses, can be a powerful instrument in God's hands in our own time.

THE ONE CHARACTERISTIC THAT MADE HIM STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD WAS NOT HIS BRAVERY, HIS DETERMINATION, WISDOM OR LEADERSHIP, BUT HIS HUMILITY.

The Hebrew word for 'humble' is anayv.

To be humble means to have a low estimate of one's importance; lower in dignity or importance.

In the Bible it is used to describe those with a servant attitude, particularly in comparison to those who are rich and arrogant.

HUMBLE PEOPLE ARE OKAY WITH BEING "SECOND IN LINE".

Object Lesson:

To be humble means you don't have to be the first in line.

- > Not the best at something you do. Someone is in front of you.
- > Someone else receives greater recognition than you and you praise them.
- > Someone else has greater success than you do and you are happy for them.
- > Someone else has better ideas for getting the job done than you and you are willing to follow behind.
- > Someone else has greater wisdom than you and you are willing to follow.

MOSES WAS OKAY WITH BEING SECOND IN LINE.

Moses was willing to be second in line to God. Moses was a humble man because he acknowledged and obeyed God. He made himself a servant to God's greater authority and wisdom. It was that attitude, and his desire to be obedient, that made Moses the most humble person on the face of the earth.

In the New Testament, Jesus said this during His Sermon on the Mount.....

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth' (Matt 5:5).

THE MEEK ARE NOT WEAK.

The meek that Jesus is talking about are not scared, bashful, backward, mousy, weak people. But strong in their stance with God. It takes great courage and strength to submit to God.

**THE MEEK ARE THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO GOD'S REIGN AND BECAUSE THEY DO
- THEY WILL REIGN.**

I.THE LIFE OF MOSES

Let's look at the development of this great man, Moses. His life is divided up into 3 equal parts.

FIRST FORTY YEARS:

Moses was born into slavery in Egypt. When he was born his parents felt the call of God on him. Because God's people kept growing in number and were becoming a threat to Egypt, Pharaoh issued a decree that all male babies be killed.

His parents recognize that he has a call of God on his life and his mother hides him until she can't anymore and puts him in a basket in the Nile River. He is picked from the Nile River by Pharaoh's daughter. She adopts him as her own child, He is raised in Pharaoh's house.

Acts7:22 Moses was taught in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was both powerful in speech and action.

He is educated in worldly affairs, arts, music, math, science, engineering. He is informed. He is a philosopher, He is a thinker, he is a stratigizer. He has been trained in the house of Pharaoh to be a statesman and a soldier. He is a man with a great mind. He has been given all the things possible to make him a great leader and successful.

Note:

Studying Egyptian History it tells us that it was not always the first born of Pharaoh that was always next in line to take the throne. Sometimes it was the oldest daughter's son that was next in line to lead. The Egyptian rulership came from the female side of the family. It could have been very likely that Moses could have become the next Pharaoh of Egypt. He could have become the leader of all of Egypt, the ruler of the greatest nation at that time.

BUT MOSES CHOSE HUMILITY BEFORE HONOR.

Hebrews 11:24-29 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. It was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the King's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible. It was by faith that Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and go sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons. It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Seas and through they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned.

FOUR VERBS IN THIS PASSAGE:

1. HE THOUGHT (considered)

In Hebrew - This is an accounting term. He considered and weighed this against that. He reckoned it. It wasn't a rash judgement. It was a weighted decision.

2. HE REFUSED

He refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He made a life changing NO decision.

TO BE AN OVERCOMER YOU MUST MAKE A LIFE CHANGING "NO" DECISION.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SAID NO TO THE WORLD, YOU AREN'T FREE TO SAY YES TO GOD.

3. HE CHOSE

He chose to suffer for God instead of enjoying life's pleasure.

YOUR ABILITY TO OVERCOME STARTS WITH CHOOSING GOD OVER THE PLEASURES OF THIS WORLD.

**MOSES WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN USED
IF HE DIDN'T CHOOSE.**

4. HE LEFT

YOU CAN'T JUST SAY "NO". YOU HAVE TO WALK AWAY.

II. SECOND FORTY YEARS

Acts 7: 17-29 *As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. ¹⁸ But then a new king came to the throne of Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph. ¹⁹ This king exploited our people and oppressed them, forcing parents to abandon their newborn babies so they would die.*

²⁰ *“At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God’s eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. ²¹ When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son. ²² Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action.*

²³ *“One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. ²⁴ He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man’s defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. ²⁵ Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn’t.*

²⁶ *“The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peacemaker. ‘Men,’ he said, ‘you are brothers. Why are you fighting each other?’*

²⁷ *“But the man in the wrong pushed Moses aside. ‘Who made you a ruler and judge over us?’ he asked. ²⁸ ‘Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?’ ²⁹ When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. There his two sons were born.*

So Moses grows up. Starts feeling the call of God on his life and visits his people to see if he can help them. So Moses murdered a man. He fled Egypt. He went to Midian and married Zipporah and had a father in law named Jethro who was a very wise man and a very wise counselor to him in a time when God was preparing him.

The desert times is when God was testing him and refining him for the work he had for him. He may have gotten all kinds of degrees in Egypt and obtained much knowledge.

**BUT WHEN MOSES WENT TO THE DESERT HE GOT THE “BN DEGREE”. THE
“BE NOTHING DEGREE”.**

**HE HAD TO BECOME NOTHING SO THAT THROUGH HIM GOD COULD BECOME
EVERYTHING.**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO BECOME NOTHING SO THAT THROUGH YOU GOD CAN
BECOME EVERYTHING?**

Imagine the change. From the plush comforts of Egypt to the hot desert of Midian. Moses chose God over Egypt, and this is how it turned out. Or did it? God did not immediately intervene when Moses got in trouble for trying to help his

fellow man. Did Moses think, “Is this what I get for trying to be faithful and fulfill my calling?”

But God had not given up on Moses. He just used the circumstances to continue Moses’ training.

1 Peter 5: 5-6 In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for

***“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”***

6 So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

**IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO BE TRAINED
IN HUMBLENESS YOU WILL NEVER FULFILL
THE CALLING OF GOD ON YOUR LIFE.**

So, Moses became what the Egyptians despised - a shepherd. Instead of leading mighty armies, he was reduced to leading fragile sheep. Instead of being a great orator to thousands of people, he talked to animals. When Moses left Egypt, he had no intentions of becoming a shepherd. But as time passed, his illusions of grandeur began to fade.

When Moses looked into the night sky, how much did he think about being the deliverer his parents said he would be? When he saw the caravans going to Egypt, how much did Moses think about his family, still slaves? And when Moses prayed to God, how many of his prayers centered around his destiny?

Moses eventually married and raised a family. As the months turned into years, Moses came to the conclusion that he was not going to be great. His parents must have been wrong. As time passed, Moses became content and accepted his lot in life as a humble shepherd.

Moses learned a lot during these 40 years. He learned to be gentle and caring. He learned how to herd sheep, and now God could use him to herd people. But more importantly, Moses learned that all his knowledge and abilities had not gotten him wealth and greatness.

III. THE LAST FORTY YEARS

Exodus 3:1-4

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up. ³ "This is amazing," Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

⁴ When the Lord saw Moses coming to take a closer look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am!" Moses replied.

⁵ "Do not come any closer," the Lord warned. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. ⁶ I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to look at God.

This is interesting that Moses who was raised in Pharaoh's house and could look the great leader of all of Egypt in the face, covered his face in the presence of God almighty.

⁷ Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses protested to God, "Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² God answered, "I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain."

¹³ But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what should I tell them?"

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. Say this to the people of Israel: I Am has sent me to you." ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.

Chapter 4:1,10,13

But Moses protested again, "What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The Lord never appeared to you'?"

10 But Moses pleaded with the Lord, “O Lord, I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.”

13 But Moses again pleaded, “Lord, please! Send anyone else.”

AT THE BURNING BUSH WE SEE A DIFFERENT MOSES.

The humility of Moses was apparent at the burning bush. He said that he was not great, neither in the past nor now ([Exodus 4:10](#)). But Moses was great in the things he said he wasn’t ([Acts 7:22](#)). Yet Moses knew that his abilities were nothing compared to God.

**MOSES TURNED ASIDE TO SEE THE BURNING BUSH,
GOD IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL TURN ASIDE AND SEE WHAT HE IS
DOING.**

**PEOPLE WHO WILL TAKE TIME OUT OF THEIR AGENDA AND SEARCH OUT THE
SUPERNATURAL OF GOD.**

**IV. MOSES HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THE LAST FORTY YEARS OF HIS LIFE.
THE LAST 40 YEARS WOULD HAVE SOME DEFINING MOMENTS. WHAT WERE
THEY?**

1. HE CONFRONTS PHARAOH WITH GOD’S DEMANDS

Here is someone who has been gone for 40 years. He is out of the national limelight. He is out of the spotlight. All of the sudden he shows up with nothing more than shepherd’s clothes and a staff in his hand. And he says, “Pharaoh, let God’s people go.”

**TO DO GREAT THINGS FOR GOD, YOU MUST POSSESS THE COURAGE TO
STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN.**

2. HE FACES IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS

He has the Red Sea in front of him and Pharaoh’s army coming in behind him. There is no way out. He’s trapped. He’s boxed in. His people don’t have any equipment or weapons. They are not trained. And here comes the most highly trained army at that point in history.

**BY THE WAY, WHEN WE FACE IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS THOSE ARE ALWAYS
DEFINING MOMENTS FOR US.**

**THEY DEFINE WHETHER WE WILL TRUST GOD IN THAT MOMENT OR WE WILL
PANIC ON OUR OWN IN THAT MOMENT.**

IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS DEFINE WHO YOU ARE.

WE ARE TO FACE IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS - NOT RUN FROM THEM.

3. HE WITNESSES THE PILLAR OF FIRE AND THE CLOUD

He saw the presence of God in the pillar of fire and the cloud. He saw the protection, presence and guidance of God on their behalf.

**MOSES KNEW I AM LEADING THEM, BUT SOMEONE IS LEADING ME.
“ I MAY BE THE ONE OUT FRONT MOVING, BUT I MOVE WHEN THE PILLAR OF
FIRE MOVES AND WHEN THE CLOUD MOVES, BUT I’M NOT MOVING UNTIL IT
MOVES.”**

4. HE WAS THE GIVER OF THE LAW

Can you imagine that he hiked to Mount Sinai and God shows up in fire and smoke that surround the cloud, the earth shakes and trembles and thunderbolts of lightning come off the mountain and he meets with God and witnesses God’s finger write the 10 commandments. The ten commandments with every moral nation and every moral system and every moral individual has been founded on.

5. HE SAW THE GLORY OF GOD

He didn’t see all of the glory of God. He only saw the backside of the glory of God. If he had seen it all it would have killed him.

MOSES WAS A MAN THAT GOD COULD TRUST WITH LAW AND WITH GLORY.

**SOME OF US WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE GLORY, BUT DON’T WANT TO
EMBRACE THE LAW.**

**GOD COULD TRUST HIM NOT TO GET PUFFED UP ABOUT EXPERIENCING THE
GLORY OF GOD.**

**HOW MUCH OF GOD CAN BE REVEALED TO YOU WITHOUT YOU GETTING
PUFFED UP ABOUT HOW MUCH OF GOD HAS BEEN REVEALED TO YOU AND
PROUD OF YOUR SPIRITUALITY?**

6. HE WITNESSED UNEXPLAINABLE INTERVENTIONS FROM HEAVEN

MANNA FROM HEAVEN AND WATER FROM THE ROCK

What Moses saw in these moments is that God is able to meet us at the point of our need.

Phillipians 4:19 And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

7. HE DEALT WITH REBELLIOUS AND UNGRATEFUL PEOPLE

(His greatest test of humbleness)

He was leading people who at the slightest inconvenience would rebel. You never met anyone who had a more negative group of people to try to lead in your life. They would gripe about their need and they would gripe when God brought the supply.

But we see prayer after prayer to God on behalf of his people for mercy and help. Even though they didn't deserve it.

Grace is — Mercy and help when someone doesn't deserve it.

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO WALK IN GOD'S GREATNESS
YOU MUST WALK IN GOD'S GRACE.**

TO HAVE GOD'S GRACE IS TO GIVE GOD'S GRACE TO OTHERS.

**A TEST OF YOUR SPIRITUALITY IS HOW YOU DEAL
WITH OTHERS WHO DON'T DESERVE YOUR
HELP OR YOUR LOVE.**