



LIFE with Purpose

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There is no greater
adventure or life
better lived than the
one used to make
much of God

F o r Y o u n g A d u l t s

Introduction

Last time we discussed how we are uniquely “crafted by God” and that every God given detail is there for a purpose. We finished our time considering that some characteristics can be our own doing and outside of God’s design and therefore need to be removed.

Tonight, we want to consider how God removes those characteristics that are an obstacle to His plan for your life by considering how every life that is to be used of God must first be purged and then be built up for God’s use.

The Three Stages of a Life God can Use – 40/40/40

Every person used of God must pass through three stages.

Moses’ stands as a towering figure in the bible who passed the three stages that God requires to use a man. From birth to death, his life renders a message of hope and wonder of what God can do with a man who submits to Him.

Moses: An Impressive Life

Steven recounts the story of Moses in Acts 7:17-44 – Let’s read it to recall the life of Moses

Acts 7:17-27

STAGE 1: 40 Years in his own natural ability

- Born as a Hebrew
- Separated from his family
- Raised in the house of pharaoh
- instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians
- Became a Murderer

(Acts 7:23 “When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Israel.)

A GREAT MAN COME TO RUIN

STAGE 2: 40 Years to discover his inability

Acts 7:29 At this retort Moses fled and became an exile in the land of Midian, where he became the father of two sons.

- Living in the desert
- Alone with his family
- A Simple shepherd
- Instructed in humility

A RUINED MAN BUILT BACK UP TO BE GOD'S MAN

STAGE 3: 40 Years seeing God's ability and power

Acts 7:30 "Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush.

- Called
- He knew and obeyed God
Exodus 7:7 Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.
- He led as a liberator
- Received the law
Exodus 24:18 Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
Exodus 34:28 So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.
Numbers 32:13 And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was gone.
- He led the nation theocratically
Exodus 16:35 The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

A MEEK AND HUMBLED MAN SERVING GOD

Numbers 12:3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

Only God can take someone important, turn them into a nothing, and then and only then use them mightily

IDENTIFYING THE OBSTACLES IN OUR LIVES

What can keep us from responding to God and letting Him shape and form us to be the useful servant he desires to make of each one of us? Let finish by looking at Moses' excuses to God and consider which of these might point to our own situation.

ARE ANY OF THESE MY EXCUSES?

- **INADEQUACY** Ex 3:11 "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"
- **IGNORANCE** Ex 3:13 "If I come to the people and they ask me . . . What should I say?"
- **LACK OF CREDIBILITY** Ex 4:1 "But they will not believe me"
- **LACK OF ELOQUENCE** Ex 4:10 "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue"
- **AVOIDANCE** Ex 4:13 " Oh, my Lord, please send someone else"

To all this God answered: Ex 4:13 1 Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

BEING RESHAPED INTO GOD'S DESIGN

What is most notable about Moses is how he slowly became a deeply meek and humble man (Num 12:2) and How God spoke to him face to face (Ex 33:11a.) His life was progressively transformed and shaped by God into a man useful in His hands.

A UNIQUE LIFE LIVED FOR GOD

Even Moses' death is unique in that God buried him.

(Deuteronomy 34:4-5, 6-7

4 And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." 5 So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, **6 and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.** 7 Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.

This is Moses' 40/40/40 life...

from self-sufficient – to incapable – to God alone is able