

PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE
#04 - MOSES' POSITIVE IMPACT
EXODUS 3:1ff (4:2)

Introduction

This is the fourth week of our looking at **PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE** in the Bible. Thus far we've seen the far reaching impact of Adam, Noah, and Abraham. Names we are familiar with! Today we look at another name we are familiar with that is considered a big name in the Bible—Moses, whom God used in a mighty way to deliver the nation of Israel from bondage, to deliver unto them His law, to lead them through the wilderness wanderings after their disobedience, and to lead them to the very edge of the land God had given to Abraham! —The Promised Land!

The first part of this story is probably one of the favorite Bible Stories most often told—The story of Moses and the Burning Bush!

The reason for bringing up Moses' example is NOT just because of the positive impact that he had, but because Moses was a lot like us in many ways! We'll see that he initially **BALKED** at what the **LORD** wanted him to do and offered the **LORD** excuses as to why he wasn't the man for the task!

Let's look at some great truths as we look at this story and as we look at the man, Moses!

Have you ever looked back at your life at some stage in your life and ask yourself the question....**HOW IN THE WORLD DID I EVER GET HERE?**
(Give background of how Moses got to this point in his life)

Israel (Jacob) moved his family to Egypt at the request of Joseph.

Joseph died at age 110 and was put in a coffin in Egypt.

After Joseph's death, there arose a Pharaoh that did not know Joseph. The children of Israel were multiplying in number much to the dismay of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, so they enslaved them and put them to hard labor building cities for Pharaoh.

But, the more they afflicted the Israelites, the more they multiplied! So, the king of Egypt had a plan involving the midwives of Israel. Kill off all the male children and only let the female children live! When the midwives didn't cooperate, Pharaoh got the Egyptians involved in his sinister plan!

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During this time, Moses was born and his mother hid him for 3 mos. When she couldn't hide him any longer, she made him an ark of bulrushes and laid him in it in the flags by the rivers bank. Along came Pharaoh's daughter and finds him rescuing him from certain death. In the end, he was nursed by his own mother while he was educated and raised in Pharaoh's house!

One day he noticed an Egyptian beating up one of his fellow Hebrews! He killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand! But he found out somebody saw what he did so he ran all the way to the land of Midian to escape Pharaoh's grasp!

He met his future wife, then his future father-in-law and he took up residence in Midian there and had a son!

His first forty years—In Egypt, from his birth until he fled for Midian, Moses learned how to be a **SOMEBODY** in Egypt!

His second forty years—Moses spent on the backside of a desert in and learned how to be a **NOBODY** in Midian!

His third forty years—From the point we are looking at here when God called him until his death. We see how God took this **SOMEBODY** of the world who was brought down to a **NOBODY** and made him **SOMEBODY** again for the **LORD**!

Let's read the Scripture and make some observations:

Exodus 3:1-3

OBSERVATION #1— ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD!
Moses saw something in the desert that seemed impossible to be happening! A bush on fire that was not being consumed!

What should he have taken away from such an experience? Well, there's no doubt the **LORD** got his attention with it! But I think Moses missed the significance: **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD!**

We've seen this expressed last week in what the **LORD** did in Abram's life!

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Genesis 18:14—"Is any thing too hard for the Lord?"
Spoken when Sarah was to have a son at 90 years old.

This would also be expressed many years in the future to the virgin Mary who was told by the angel Gabriel that she would give birth to the Savior of the world! *Luke 1:34 "...How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"*

Luke 1:37—"For with God nothing shall be impossible."

OBSERVATION #1— ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD!

Exodus 3:4-6

OBSERVATION #2 — GOD SOMETIMES CALLS THOSE THAT THE WORLD THINKS STRANGE! (3:4-6)

A. MOSES HAD BEEN A FAILURE!

However, His failure in the flesh was to lead him to depend upon God in the future.

B. MOSES WAS TENDING SHEEP!

Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians.

However, his experience as a shepherd was to help him shepherd the flock of God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

C. MOSES WAS ON THE BACKSIDE OF THE DESERT!

He was out in the middle of nowhere!

We might say that God had his undivided attention!

Exodus 3:7

OBSERVATION #3 — GOD UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS THAT HIS PEOPLE FACE. (3:7)

(Cf. 1 Peter 5:6-10)

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Hebrews 2:18—"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted."

Exodus 3:8-10

OBSERVATION #4— GOD HAS A WILL FOR HIS PEOPLE!

God wanted His people to be different and to make a difference!

A. He Had A Will For His People Israel!

Deuteronomy 14:2 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

B. He Had A Will For His Servant Moses!

To be His special chosen leader—to deliver and guide Israel!

C. He Has A Will For Me And You!

It is why the Apostle Paul gave this admonition to us in, *Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

And here is where I want to plant this morning! **GOD WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES!** We don't have to be a **SOMEBODY!** We can be a **NOBODY!** It doesn't matter to God! Because **ITS NOT ABOUT US, ITS ABOUT HIM!**

When God chose Moses it wasn't because of who Moses was, it was all about **WHO GOD IS!** (We could say he was a washed up 80 year old!)

All that God asked of Moses was his obedience!
But as we will see, **MOSES HAD TO GET BEYOND HIMSELF** and allow the **LORD** to use him in any way the **LORD** saw fit!

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And by the way that's the only way that ANY OF US can truly make a POSITIVE DIFFERENCE in this world is to GET BEYOND OURSELVES AND OUR EXCUSES AND ALLOW THE LORD TO DO HIS WORK IN OUR LIVES AS HE SEES FIT!

Exodus 3:11-4:31

OBSERVATION #5— MEN CAN COME UP WITH MANY EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING GOD'S WILL, BUT NONE THAT GOD CAN'T HELP THEM OVERCOME!

A. God, Who Am I That I Should Go?

(i.e. I'm A Nobody With No Ability!) (3:11-12)

It sounds humble enough. The bottom line is that Moses was like a lot of folks today—He didn't want to go! He didn't want to be the one! The truth is that none of us are anybody, none of us are worthy! God alone is worthy!

John 15:5— ". . . without me ye can do nothing."

Philippians 4:13— "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

1 Corinthians 3:7--"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

B. God, What Am I Going To Say?

(i.e. I Don't Know What To Say, I Have No Message!) (3:13-14)

God sent Moses with HIS message of authority and deliverance!

In the same way, God has given us HIS message of authority and deliverance today!

Romans 1:16— "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

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1 Corinthians 15:3-4— "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; {4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

C. God They Will Not Listen To Me Or Believe Me!
(i.e. I Have No Authority!) (4: 1-9)

Matthew 28:18-20— "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Acts 1:8— "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

D. God I Am Not A Man Of Words!
(i.e. I Have No Eloquence!) (4: 10-12)
(Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

It is not about what we can say or how we can say it, but rather its about are we surrendered for God to use us as His vessel!

It is not about our self-confidence, but rather its about our confidence in His Holy Spirit!

It is not about how great we can talk, but rather its about the power of the message!

The Holy Spirit can take the Sword of the Spirit in the hands of a surrendered saint and perform radical surgery on the stony heart of the basest of sinners!

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E. God I Really Don't Want To Be The One!
(i.e. I Have No Inclination!) (4:13-16)
Isn't that the way we are? We cut God so short in what He COULD DO through us if we would just let Him!

God Told Him, "Just Do It! I Will Give You Some Help!"
Philippians 2:13—"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

OBSERVATION #5— MEN CAN COME UP WITH MANY EXCUSES FOR NOT DOING GOD'S WILL, BUT NONE THAT GOD CAN'T HELP THEM OVERCOME!

Exodus 4:2-4, 11
OBSERVATION #6— GOD CAN DO WONDERS WITH WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE IN OUR HANDS IF WE SURRENDER IT TO GOD! (4:2-4, 11)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20—"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? {20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

OBSERVATION #7—WHAT WE HAVE BECOMES THE LORD'S WHEN WE SURRENDER IT TO HIM!

Vs 2 – a rod,

Vs 17 – the rod,

Vs 20 – the rod of God.

Conclusion

My God can do anything! He is the God of the impossible!

Let me use me for an example for just a moment!

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Though I am not very much and though I am undeserving and can't do anything on my own, God still chose and chooses to do a work in me and through me!

God understands each problem that I now face or ever will face!
And He BOTH CAN MEET AND DOES MEET my every need!

What I needed then and still need now is to see is that God has a will for **my** life! I'm not to make excuses because where God calls, He provides!
He is the all-sufficient God!

What I need to do is chunk all of my lame excuses and surrender to God ALL that He has already given to me and then watch Him do wonders with it whereby He is glorified!

Because when I surrender something to the Lord, it becomes His to do with what He pleases!