

## Power Hour Lesson Summary for July 2, 2017

### “Moses”

**Lesson Text:** Exodus 3:1-12

**Background Scripture:** Exodus 3

**Devotional Reading:** 2 Chronicles 19:4-7

### Exodus 3:1-12 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

### TODAY’S LESSON AIMS

**Learning Fact:** To describe the dilemma that Moses faced when God called him to lead the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

**Biblical Principle:** To understand that the key to answering God’s call is not found in who the human servant is but in who God is.

**Daily Application:** To commit to serving God and not make excuses.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Agony or Victory?

Years before ESPN became the primary sports network, there was ABC’s *Wide World of Sports*. On Saturday afternoon one could tune in as announcer Jim McKay introduced this sports anthology. McKay would remind viewers that attempting to achieve greatness in sporting events led to both “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.”

Such a phrase aptly describes the experience of the Lord's servants throughout the years. Serving the Lord in a broken, sin-cursed world can be the source of some of life's greatest joys, but it can also produce some agonizing moments. Perhaps no group of individuals in Scripture exemplifies this battle better than the Old Testament prophets, who are the focus of our next unit of studies. The first of this group to be considered is Moses.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

**Time:** about 1445 B.C.

**Place:** Horeb

One could use the letters in the word *prophet* in an acrostic to define the Old Testament prophets as *passionate representatives obediently proclaiming heaven's eternal truth*. The prophets were God's spokespersons who proclaimed His message (usually but not always) fearlessly.

Some people view a prophet as one who predicts the future. That is certainly part of what the Old Testament prophets did, but their task was by no means limited to that. It is helpful to see the prophets as both *foretellers* (those who predicted the future accurately) and *forth-tellers* (those who declared God's truth). Prophets were often subject to verbal and/or physical abuse because they spoke unpleasant truth boldly and plainly. They often did so without regard for the consequences.

Some look at Moses' role as that of a lawgiver more than a prophet. But the Scriptures clearly refer to him as a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15). The same book concludes with these words of tribute to Moses: "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face" (34:10).

Moses began his service to the Lord in need of his own prophet or spokesman, his brother Aaron (Exodus 4:14-16; 7:1, 2). But in time Moses would learn an important lesson: the key to answering God's call is found not in who the human servant is but in who God is. That principle still holds true.

In his defense before the Sanhedrin, Stephen related that Moses had killed an Egyptian whom he saw beating one of "his own people, the Israelites" (Acts 7:23, 24; compare Exodus 2:11, 12). According to Stephen, Moses assumed that his fellow Israelites would acknowledge him as their deliverer and rally around his efforts; "but they did not" (Acts 7:25). When Moses realized that his murderous act was known by others and that he had been rejected as a deliverer, he fled Egypt. He ended up in Midian, where he married Zipporah, one of seven daughters of Jethro. We find Moses in that situation as today's lesson text opens.

### What Do You Think?

- What are some ways to turn our church into a "burning bush" that draws people to Jesus?
- What actions on our part can acknowledge our awareness of being in the presence of the God of all holiness (1 Peter 1:15, 16)?
- How do we eliminate hindrances that cause us to neglect relieving the suffering of others?
- How do we recognize the difference between humble, honest self-doubt and mere lack of desire to "get involved"—or worse?
- How do we know when we should actively seek out service opportunities vs. letting others seek us to serve in those ministries?

## POINTS TO PONDER

1. God must get our attention before we can listen to His plans for us (Exodus 3:1-4).
2. God's covenant relationship with us moves Him to act on behalf of His people (vs. 5-6).
3. We can take consolation in knowing that God is watching and cares for us (vs. 7-10).
4. Instead of questioning who we are and our abilities, let's remember who God is (v. 11).
5. God is faithful and will always be with us! (v. 12).

## CONCLUSION

### The With-ness in Our Witness

When God chose Moses for leadership, did Moses anticipate the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat? Confronting the leader of a great empire was quite a task! Like Moses, we too can be intimidated by the seeming impossibility of our tasks. We can be intimidated into silence by peer pressure, social media, our workplace atmosphere, and other sources of opposition. But before we ask *Who am I?* let us remember who God is.

Jesus concluded His commission to His disciples with these words: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). Moses was called to lead Israel from physical bondage to freedom. The church is called to lead people from spiritual bondage to eternal life. The God who assured Moses of His presence with him assures us of the same thing now. Jesus has done the hardest work; we point others to Him.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, let us take courage from knowing that Your presence sustains us. May we never be so intimidated by troubled times that we lose sight of the One who is above us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

God's promise to be with us still applies!

## ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "**Isaiah**" and describes the circumstances of Isaiah's call and the prophet's initial reaction. Study Isaiah 6.