

Heroes of the Faith: Moses: The Imperfect Leader

- The danger of a hero – us not relating to him in his humanness

In Pharaoh's Palace

- Growing up Egyptian - **Childhood issues**
- The growing tension between two worlds
- First steps as a Liberator - Exodus 2:11-12 ¹¹...*He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.* ¹² *Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*
- Misguided murder – He's **impulsive** and **naïve**
- Acts 7:25 - *Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.*
- Exo 2:14 – *“Who do you think you are, telling us what to do? Are you going to kill me the way you killed that Egyptian?”*

On the Run

- Moses rescues women at a well in Midian
- Moses' desire for justice – it's in his DNA
- It's the **Heartbeat of God** that he longs for us all to have.

Domestication in Midian

- He has a family and works as a shepherd for 40 years
- Believes his past is in the past

The Burning Bush

- God hears the cry of the Israel
 - The Scriptures paint Yahweh as someone who consistently is on the side of the oppressed and marginalized.
- Moses New Calling – Exodus 3:10 - *So now, go I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”*
- Moses response? Less than thrilled - *“Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”*
 - His passion for justice has dimmed – the result when we are removed from places of injustice
 - Going back scares him to death - **Fearful**

- ★ God is not speaking in a way that immediately calms his fears and answers all his questions which is like our lives
- We ask questions, we hold on to our fears, we doubt, we give excuses and God's okay with that!

Moses' Heavy Tongue

- Exodus 4:10 - *He says, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past not since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech. I am slow of speech and tongue.”*
- Possibility #1 – He has a stutter
- Possibility #2 – He is poor at the Hebrew language
 - Either way he feels unqualified for the job. He has **self-doubt**

¹¹ *The LORD said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.”*

God Seeking a Relationship!

- Moses shows his true hand – 4:23 - ¹³ *But Moses said, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”* He's **stubborn** and **doesn't trust God!**
 - God's response ¹⁴ *Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses...*
 - Just when you thought God was going to give it to him authority style, he compromises by providing Aaron
- (**Notice** that perhaps God was always going to use Aaron – he was the solution to Moses' problems – he just wanted Moses to trust him beforehand)

- God doesn't coerce people to obey him or trust him because that doesn't encourage a relationship (teenager parents agree!)
- And it worked: Deut 37:10 – *Moses knew God face to face*

Freed But Still in Chains

- After God uses Moses and Aaron and multiple plagues, Pharaoh finally allows them to leave Egypt and then God opens the Red Sea
- The people are free, but they are still in chains of negativity – constantly complaining and grumbling.
- Moses is able to not be overcome by it.

Growing as a Leader

- Moses' has **control issues** and its going to burn him out. His father-in-law Jethro is able to teach Moses that he doesn't have to do it all. A valuable lesson for any leader.

Moses – A Leader just like Us!

- He's a man who had childhood issues, was impulsive, naïve, fearful, dealt with self-doubt, was very stubborn, didn't trust easily and had control problems, but God used him for greatness
- God wants to work with broken, imperfect vessels like him and like us. And for that, we can be very grateful.