



Sermon Notes

Term – Summer 2019

Series – Moses

Gathering & Date – the 5, 25 August

Title – The inner journey of Moses (Part 2)

Preacher – Paul Langham

Reading – Matthew 17:1-3

Main message of this talk in one sentence – The secret of the inner journey of Moses lies in his lifelong pursuit of the Presence of God

Questions –

Moses faced a number of challenges in pursuing God's Presence, some of which we may also face

1. **The lure of ease** – Moses was raised in unimaginable privilege and wealth: it would have been easy for him to turn his back on the suffering of his birth people. Whenever God asks us to do something, it's always easier to say no: until we reach the place where we find it easier to say yes!

Q – what 'ease' in your life distracts or deters you from pursuing God?

2. **a destiny delayed** – Moses was born to be a deliverer, but his impetuous anger and violence meant he had to flee for his life (Exodus 2:11-25). He spent the next 40 years as a shepherd in the desert. How hard it must have been to keep his sense of call and destiny alive? How often he must have longed to be anywhere but the desert ... and yet God was using those desert years to prepare him for his destiny. When he finally led his people out of Egypt, he was the ONLY one with experience and knowledge of the desert they had to cross ...

Q – has a God-dream or sense of destiny not worked out as you had imagined? Do you long to be 'somewhere else' than where you find yourself? How can you invite God to show you his purpose in the desert place?

3. **a dream rekindled** – the burning bush (Exodus 3) is one of the most well-known in the story of Moses. But what was its point? It seems that God wanted to see whether Moses was too jaded or cynical to step aside and investigate. It was only 'when the Lord saw that Moses had gone over to look' (Exodus 3:4) that God spoke to him out of the bush

Q – are you 'awake' to God's desire to speak with you? Do you have a God-given dream he needs to rekindle? What is it? Has cynicism or disappointment blunted your desire to pursue him?

4. **the paralysis of self-doubt** – Exodus 4 sees Moses try everything he can think of to avoid God's call: what if the people won't believe me? I'm not good with words, I get tongue-tied ... finally, he simply says 'Please send someone else' ...! (Exodus 4:13).

Q – do you find yourself explaining to God why you're not up to what he asks of you? Do you list the reasons he's made the wrong choice? Do you find yourself saying, 'Here I am, Lord. Send her' ...? Ask the Lord for grace next time he asks you to do something to believe that he knows what he's doing ...

5. **the confusion when life gets worse rather than better** – Moses soon finds himself in a battle with Pharaoh about his people, and also with them, because they don't want him as their deliverer. He says to God, in effect – 'Ever since I've done what you said, things have got worse.' (Exodus 5:22)

Q – has that ever been your experience? It can be a particular issue for those new to faith, as the Enemy of our souls tries every trick in the book to convince us to give up ...

So what's the answer? Read Exodus 33, one of the most significant in the whole Old Testament, and see the inner journey of Moses made visible.

God tells him the people can go into the Promised Land, but that He's not going to go with them. This is the moment to which Moses' whole life has been leading, the culmination of all the years of longing, of struggle, of hoping against hope. But Moses replies:

'If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.' (Exodus 33:15)

Moses' heart is summed up in his request of God in v. 13 ... 'that I may know you.'

Q – how can you make that your own heart's desire?