

I. I am sure you remember this story also found in Exodus Chapter 2

A. Pharaoh ordered that all male Jewish babies be killed

1. But the mother of Moses refused to do so and placed the baby Moses in a small ark and set him out on the Nile River
2. One of the daughters of Pharaoh found and took the child in
 - a. and thru divine providence the actual mother of Moses was called upon to nurse the child
3. Just as there was divine intervention in the life of Moses due to the call of God that rested upon his life to be the future deliverer of Israel
 - a. I am sure that each of us here who are called of God
 - (1) can see events in our life Even before we were Born Again ... even before we responded to the call of God
 - (a) that we experienced divine intervention that took place in our lives

B. Moses was raised in Pharaoh's house: and it tells us: Acts 7:22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds."

1. Like Moses we may have:

a. become "**Learned in all wisdom**"

- (1) thru our secular education
- (2) or we may have street smarts
- (3) or we may have become wise in the ways of the world

2. Like Moses we may have become:

a. "**mighty in words**"

- (1) an eloquent speaker
- (2) full of charisma
- (3) can talk our way in or out of everything

3. Like Moses we may have become:

a. "**Mighty in Deeds**"

- (1) become successful
- (2) mastered our craft
 - (a) None of that is sufficient for fulfilling the call of God that rests upon our life

II. When people are called of God to the work of the ministry ... A **divine interruption** comes into our life:

- A. We were just going about minding our own business ... doing our thing, making a living Then vs. 23 & 24 of Acts 7 manifests in our lives as it did Moses:

1. Acts 7:23 23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.
 - 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. 25 For he supposed
 - a. **"It came into his / Moses heart"**
 - (1) God sends a **desire** into our heart, as he did Moses
 - b. **Then we see a need & attempt to respond to that need:**
 - (1) In Moses situation he seen one of his Egyptian brothers suffering wrong
- B. This is a dangerous season for those who experience the call of God upon their life, because some never recover from the disappointments that may follow:
 1. **We respond with the Learning & wisdom of Egypt** Type of the world
 - a. mistakenly thinking our secular education has adequately prepared us for ministering to the need we saw
 2. We then **draw upon our natural strength** by which we have accomplished other mighty deeds in the past in attempt to fulfill the work of the ministry
 - a. we just depend upon our flesh and kill whoever or what ever is in the way
 - (1) Zech 4:6 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
- C. Then we find the next mistake that led to Moses failure, when trying to respond to The desire that came into his heart: **PRESUMPTION**
 1. Acts 7:25 "For he **supposed** that his **brethren would have understood** that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand.
 - a. Moses mistakenly presumed that everyone around him would:
 - (1) understand the desire of his heart
 - (2) understand the call of God that rested upon his life ... to be their deliverer
 - b. I am sure that Moses thought that he was more than qualified:
 - (1) surely they would recognize his degree from the university of Egypt
 - (2) He probably thought that when I open my mouth and speak and explain my Mighty deed I just performed on their behalf
 - (a) they will be amazed at the words I speak
 - c. Moses probably thought that due to is position in society ... growing up in Pharaoh's House Everyone would yield to him
 - (1) But they did not understand and responded: Acts 7:27 "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?
 - (a) Even today many men and women of God make these same mistakes while attempting to respond to the call of God

- a. Only to experience the same outcome as Moses:
 - (1) as seen in Acts 7:25 “**they did not understand**”

B. The results are always the same at this stage of the Call of God upon our life:

1. they **run from the call of God** that leads into a **WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE**

a. Acts 7:29 “**Moses fled** and became a dweller in the land of Midian, ..”

(1) “**Moses Fled**”

(a) He not just running from the **consequences** of his actions

(1) Moses was running from the **desire** in his heart

(2) Moses was running from the **need** he seen

(3) Moses was running from his **failure** in ministry

(4) Moses was running from the **call of God** that rested upon his life

2. Moses ran to a place called: **Midian**

a. **Def Midian:** contention, strife

(1) the contention & strife Moses experienced was not with another person

(2) for 40 years Moses wrestled with himself / wrestled with his flesh out in the wilderness / dwell

b. 40 years Moses wrestled with what could have been back in Egypt: proof of that statement can be seen in the name he gave his first son while in this wilderness experience

(1) Ex 2:22 “And she bore him a son. He called his name **Gershom**, for he said, **“I have been a stranger in a foreign land.”**”

(a) sounds like an unfulfilled man

III. **Even when we run** ... the hand of God is moving behind the scenes causing our Running from the call of God to lead into our preparation for ministry:

A. Ex 3:1 “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the **priest** of Midian.”

1. Moses ended up in the home of Jethro who not only became his father-in law

a. But Jethro was “**the priest of Midian**”

(1) a man who understands ministry

(2) one who understand the call of God & the preparation process that takes place in the life of a person who has a call of God resting upon their life

2. In fact after Israel was delivered from Egypt, and Moses was being overwhelmed by the responsibilities that came with the work of the ministry

a. we find in Exodus Chapter 18 ... that it was Jethro who came to Moses and taught him how to structure his ministry

(1) so Moses would not be overwhelmed

(2) and for the needs of the people to be effectively met

3. Holy Spirit will do the same for you and I
 - a. you may run You may try to hide in the wilderness.....
 - b. But **God will send a Jethro** into this season of your life
 - (1) so take note of the people around you in the midst of your wilderness
 - (2) they will not only walk with you thru this wilderness time
 - (3) they will be there for you when you walk into the fullness of the call of God upon your life to help you when you are overwhelmed

B. Many times people who are running from the call of God do as Moses did in
 Learn to settle for less than the fullness of what God has in store for them:
 Ex 2:21 “**Then Moses was content** to live with the man (Jethro), and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses.”
 Ex 3:1 “Now Moses was **tending the flock** of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian.”

1. People on the run from the call of God in their life try to do as Moses by
 Becoming **content with living outside of the will of God** for their life....
 - a. “Ex 2:21” **Moses was content**
 - (1) so he marries one of Jethro’s daughters, and then starts making a living
 And getting own with his life According to his own plans
 - (a) Ex 3:1 “Moses was **tending the flock** of Jethro”
 - (1) Moses finds a job that is not as risky & challenging ... something safe
 Just make a living & pay the bills & feed my family
2. Again like Moses People are blinded to the fact that God is still moving
 Behind the scenes preparing them for their calling:
 - a. Moses became a shepherd of Jethro’s sheep
 - b. **in preparation for becoming the shepherd of God’s sheep: Israel**
 - (1) and this is what many do, who are running from the call of God upon their
 Life They settle for their own plans.... Out from the will of God
 - (2) They try to become content in being less that what God has called them to be
 And do less than what God has called them to do **Not realizing God is
 using your present situation as preparation**

C. It was during this **WILDERNESS SEASON** of Moses life that he:

1. Became **humble & broken**
 - a. When God visited Moses again in the midst of his Wilderness Experience
 Moses was not so quick to run out in his own strength in attempt to do the
 work of the ministry in his own strength & wisdom Note his response:
 (1) Ex 3:11 “But Moses said to God, “**Who am I** that I should go to Pharaoh, and
 that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

2. 1 Peter 5:6 “ Therefore **humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,” ...
 - a. We must humble our self before God will bring the exalting / promotion:
 - b. The Wilderness Preparation varies from individual to individual based upon their willingness to surrender, yield, humble them self:
 - a. For **Moses** it took 40 years in a wilderness
 - b. For **Joseph** who was very prideful it took 14 years
 - c. **We each personally determine this time frame** of Wilderness preparation based upon our **surrender**:
 - d. and prayerfully we are not like the Generation of Israel who never yielded and died in the wilderness Never entering their destiny

D. We each must go to a place called: **THE SCHOOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**:
Where we learn vital lessons for ministry as Moses did:

1. Moses learned **faithfulness**: a vital attribute in ministry:
 - a. Luke 16:12 “ 12 And if you have not been **faithful in what is another man's**, who will give you what is your own?
 - (1) Before God would give Moses his own flock / the people of Israel
 - (a) Moses had to first be faithful with another man’s / Jethro’s flock
 - b. 1 Tim 1:12 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord has enabled me, because He **counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,**”
 - (1) A release from our Wilderness Experience and into our destiny does not take place until Jesus Christ can count us faithful
2. Another lesson learned in wilderness preparation is found in: Prov 3:5 “ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And **lean not on your own understanding;**”
 - a. **We must renew our mind** with the Word of God Rom 12:2
 - b. We must **study the word** of God so we can be that workman who rightly Divides the word of God & so we can be that workman Approved unto God 2 Tim 2:15
3. Before we move ... must learn to **seek the will of God**: Prv 3:6 “In all your ways **acknowledge Him**, And He shall direct your paths.”
 - a. It takes becoming spiritually mature to consistently **Walk in the Spirit & Follow the Leading of The Holy Spirit**:
 - (1) Rom 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
 - (a) Note “**sons of God**” Not **child** of God
 - (1) In Jewish culture The word “**son**” speaks of maturity
 - (2) and an child is not qualified to receive an inheritance Only a son / One who has matured is qualified to receive an inheritance:

(a) Gal 4:1 “Now I say that the **heir, as long as he is a child**, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

(a) Dwell though an heir, ... as long they remain as a child / immature
Did not receive their inheritance until the **time appointed by the father**

(1) **Time Appointed: MATURITY**

(2) Matt 3:17 “ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My Beloved **Son** so, in whom I am well pleased."

(a) God The father introduced Jesus into ministry by declaring him to be a “**SON**” Not a child

3. Another vital lesson learned in the school of the Holy Spirit is:

TIMING OF GOD

a. Moses rushed out to deliver his Jewish brother from the abuse of the Egyptian out from the timing of God In fact he was 40 years too early:

(1) Ex 2:23 “ **Now it happened in the process of time** that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.

24 So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

(a) In Your Wilderness Preparation you learn the Timing of God / You Learn to discern the various Seasons of the Spirit:

(1) Gal 4:4 “ But when the **fullness of the time** had come, God sent forth His Son,

(a) When you learn the Timing of God ... Discern the Season of God

(1) You then walk in sync with **God’s provision** for accomplishing your dream

(2) **Doors** that were closed, divinely open

(3) You also come into **contact** with the right people needed in helping you Fulfill your call

(b) We see an example of these spiritual truths in the life of **Joseph**:

(1) Ps 105:17 “ He sent a man before them — Joseph — who was sold as a slave.

18 They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

19 Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested Him”

20 The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

b. Verses on “**TIMING**”

- (1) Paul said in Rom 13:11 “11 And do this, **knowing the time**”
- (2) In regards to then timing of Salvation Paul quotes a prophesy from Isa 49:8 in 2 Cor 6:2 And says: ““In an **acceptable time** I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.”
- (3) In regards to the unfolding of end time events, Paul’s says in: 2 Thess 2:6 “ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be **revealed in his own time.**
7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.
- (4) Paul was able to discern when his life and ministry were finished on earth:
 - (a) 2 Tim 4:6 “ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the **time of my departure is at hand.**
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

4. There is nothing more **frustrating** than attempting to do the work of the Ministry out of sync with the timing of God:
 - a. At the same time there is nothing more **fulfilling** to recognize the Timing of God & doing the right thing in the proper season

IV. YOU CAN NEVER OUT RUN GOD Because no matter where you run You will have a **DIVINE ENCOUNTER ... burning bush experience:**

- A. Acts 7:30 "And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.
31 When Moses saw it, he marveled at the sight; and as he drew near to observe, the voice of the Lord came to him,
32 saying, 'I am the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses trembled and dared not look.
33 'Then the Lord said to him, "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.
1. The Lord will bring a divine interruption in the midst of your contentment,
 - a. It may be a dramatic supernatural experience like Moses with a burning bush
 - b. It may be a Prophet speaking a prophetic word into your life
 - c. It may be the presence of God coming to you in the midst of a praise & worship service
 - d. It may be the “still small voice” of the Holy Spirit Speaking to you while in prayer, or at the altar, or reading the scriptures

B. How this experience with God comes is not important, but what **our response** is to God is very important:

1. Acts 7:31 “**he drew near**”

Ex 3:1 “Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

3 Then Moses said, “**I will now turn aside** and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.”

4 So when the Lord saw that he **turned aside** to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “**Here I am.**”

a. Moses made an attempt to draw near in Acts 7: 31

(1) When these divine interruptions / divine visitations of God come into our Life we must put forth an effort to “**DRAW NEAR**” as Moses did

(a) James 4:8 “ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

(1) God will send the interruption / visitation / invitation

(2) But: we must choose to respond to The Lord

b. Like Moses in the midst of your business of life, we must say to our self:

(1) Ex 3:3 “**I will turn aside**” (**DWELL**)

(a) No matter how busy you may be must turn aside from what you are Doing when God brings a divine interruption into our life

c. Then we are faced with a **decision**.... WILL WE SURRENDER TO THE CALL OF GOD as Moses did & SURRENDER:

(1) Ex 3:4 “**Here I am**”

V. Once we respond to the call of God we must **put the past behind us**:

A. We must let go of past fears, disappointment, offenses, & rejections:

1. Acts 7:33-35 "This **Moses whom they rejected**, saying, 'Who made you a ruler and a judge?' is the one God sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Angel who appeared to him in the bush.

a. Moses had to overcome being rejected

b. He could no longer live in past offenses if he wanted to walk into his future that God had ordained for his life and ministry

2. Many times: **Rejection is a part of the process for your calling:**

a. We even see this principle in the life of **Jesus**:

(1) Matt 21:42 “The stone which the builders **rejected** Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing,

3. As seen in the life of **Jesus & Joseph**, ... don't be surprised when The Lord sends you back to the same people who rejected you:
 - a. There is no room for **un-forgiveness**
 - b. there is no room for **self pity**
 - c. But there is **GRACE**:
 - (1) 2 Cor 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect In weakness."
 - (a) No matter what you may have encountered No matter how great the Pain & disappointment: God's grace is sufficient
 - (b) And if you yield to the Lord ... that place of your greatest pain, disappointment, offense, weakness
 - (1) will become the place from which God manifests His strength in & thru you

B. DANGERS OF HOLDING ON TO REJECTION: It can turn into **BITTERNESS ... And bitterness will keep you in the wilderness**

1. Bitterness can **grieve the Holy Spirit** in your life and ministry:
 - a. Eph 4:30 And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - 31 Let all **bitterness**, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.
 - 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
2. Heb 12:15 "looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;"
 - a. Bitterness can cause you to **fall short of God's Grace**
 - (1) **Grace**: God's mercy & God's divine ability & gifting in you
 - b. Bitterness will cause you to fall short of the grace / for fulfilling God's calling & vision upon your life
 - c. Bitterness will cause you life and ministry to be filled with constant **trouble** / and turmoil
 - (1) vs 32 "root of bitterness springing up cause **trouble**"
 - (a) **Def "Trouble"**: to crowd in & annoy
 - (1) like a root of a weed bitterness will take over your heart & become the constant focus which clouds our decision making
 - d. Bitterness will **defile** your life & ministry:
 - (1) **Def Defile**: contaminate, pollution, unclean
 - (a) this results in you **transferring the wrong spirit** into the lives of those you minister to through your:

- (1) Preaching / Teaching / Words you speak
- (2) laying on of hands
- (3) through the anointing in your life that has become defiled:
 - (a) Eccl 10:1 “10 Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment,
And cause it to give off a foul odor;”
 - (1) **Perfumers ointment** / apothecary / ointment: type of the anointing
 - (2) **Dead flies**: type of unclean spirits
 - (a) These are the things that bitterness bring into our anointing

C. We must do like Joseph in Egypt so our anointing does not become defiled:

- 1. Some fourteen years after Joseph had dreamed his dream of his father & brothers bowing before him ... as now Joseph stood before his brothers when they came down to Egypt looking for food
 - a. Joseph could have allowed the **past rejection** he encountered when his brothers sold him into slavery to fill his heart with bitterness
 - b. Joseph could have **misused his position & power** be contaminated with bitterness and take out revenge on his brothers:
 - c. But instead Joseph understood his wilderness preparation & refused to become bitter and told his brothers:
 - (1) Gen 50:20 “ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

**VII. While in the midst of our wilderness we must respond to the call of God by
TAKING UP YOUR ROD**

- A. Ex 4:17 “ And you shall **take this rod** in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.”
 - 1. **Rod**: type & Shadow of:
 - a. **Jesus Christ**:
 - (1) be that Five Fold Ministry Gift Jesus has called you to be Eph 4:11
 - (2) and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - b. **Word of God**:
 - (1) Speak, preach, teach, prophesy the Word the Holy Spirit puts in your mouth
 - (a) Just as God told Moses: Ex 4:15 “ I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.
 - c. **Authority**:
 - (1) The rod is symbolic of spiritual authority & the calling, office The Lord has set you in

2. Some may be **hesitant to pick up there Rod** as Moses was, at first:
- a. Ex 4:3 “and He said, "Cast it (ROD) to the e ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and **Moses fled from it.**
 - (1) some run from the Rod, because they are afraid to flow in the **POWER** of God / the power of the anointing, the Gifts of the Spirit
 - (2) Others run from the Rod, because the ROD ALSO REPRESENTS THE **RESPONSIBILITIES** that come with ministry
 - (3) I encourage you to: **TAKE UP YOUR ROD**
 - (a) learn to move in the Gifts of The Spirit
 - (b) learn to flow in the anointing of The Holy Ghost
 - © learn to move in your God given authority so you may accomplish your Calling for the glory of God

B. Isa 6:8 “ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "**Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?"** Then I said, "**Here am I! Send me.**"

1. will that be your response today?