

July 30th, 2023
Miss Out
Deuteronomy 34

Open with prayer

Read for insight into the scripture

This week Andrew wrapped up the story of Moses. To refresh our memory, Moses got his start by being put into a basket during a time when the Pharaoh was killing all the baby boys of the Hebrew people because he was afraid of the power of the people if they grew too large. They, the slaves, could revolt! So Moses was saved and raised in the house of Pharaoh. He was always a sort of a misfit. One day he saw an Egyptian slave master whipping a Hebrew slave and he snapped. He killed the Egyptian in secret. Turns out the Hebrew people saw him. The next day two Hebrew men were fighting and he went to break up the fight - they asked him, "did you plan to 'strike' us the way you 'struck' the Egyptian?" Moses ran away, met his wife, and became a shepherd...until God started to show up in crazy ways. God met with Moses and called him to action through the burning bush. God gave Moses a partner, and together he and his brother Aaron were on a journey to convince Pharaoh to set Hebrew slaves free. After many powerful signs they were free. As an entire nation followed this man, God made himself known to the people over and over. The people doubted, Moses met with God, led the people and the 40 year long cycle began. Moses' whole goal was to lead the Hebrew people **from** slavery in Egypt **to** freedom in the land that was promised to them. Today we pick up where God led Moses up to a mountain where he could see what was the Promised Land. And there he died. He was not allowed in because according to Deuteronomy 32:51 he broke faith with God among the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, because he did not treat God as holy in the midst of the people. Let's examine what happened there, how we can relate, and what it means for how we live today.

Before we jump in, discuss.

- ***Do you ever feel like you will not or did not get to see the fruits of your labor?***

Read the text out loud and discuss questions.

Numbers 20:2-13

- ***What stands out to you in this passage?***
- ***If Moses was diligently leading the Israelites through the wilderness for 37 years at this point. What does vs. 4-5 tell us about the state of their trust in the Lord's provision?***

Andrew said, "The false memory of the past is better than the true reality of the present. The path to what is promised to us is often littered with obstacles."

- **Can you relate to the Israelites? Has there been a time when you have been waiting on the Lord to show up and you got worn out, and your hope turned to complaining? What did that look like?**
- **Read vs. 8. Discuss the clear direction that the Lord Gave to Moses and Aaron.**
- **God wanted to display his power, yet again, to the congregation of the people. This was to be an act of obedience by Moses, and an act of mercy by God. However Moses got emotional.**
- **What did Moses say to the congregation and do to the rock?**
- **Was Moses supposed to address the people at all?**
- **Here is where we can relate to Moses...Can you think of a time when you got tired of people (or kids) complaining or doing something that you kept telling them they shouldn't do?**

Moses was seemingly worn down on this day and let his emotions rule above God's call in his life and he went back into his old ways of solving problems. We have the opportunity to do this every single day.

1. Moses had done this exact thing before and he was told a different way to handle things, but his emotions seemed to get the best of him.
2. He resorted to violence (Instead of talking), which was more like the Egyptian way than the Hebrew, God honoring, way. His violence was even what made him run from Egypt in the first place.
3. He spoke harshly to the people of God. This was supposed to be a moment of Moses displaying, yet again, God's power to the People; God's provision to those he loves.

Martin Luther (paraphrased) said, "Be a thermostat, not a thermometer." If we are the called, the God honoring people in a situation, are we reading the room and becoming like everyone else, or are we setting the temperate for others to have encounters with the holiness of God, which is at work in us? Why is this hard for you?

- **What are your "fleshy" tendencies you see yourself resorting to in moments of stress or frustration? I.e...anger, harsh words, critical spirit, etc.**

Knowing that Moses' whole life is not wasted, is imperative for us. He was leading and teaching the entire next generation. The goal wasn't just for him to cross over into the Promised Land, it was for him to lead the people to the Promised Land. Which he did, by raising up the next generation. Moses helped Israel learn for 40 years what it meant to trust in the promises of God and to follow where God led.

Our culture is finding it acceptable to praise and serve ourselves. Our culture tells us that we can berate people all day long and do it without consequence because our feelings matter most. Our culture tells us that if it feels good and right to you, then it is good and right. Our culture tells us that if we want something we go get it, whatever the cost. Our culture tells us that grudges are fine, hurting others is fine, money and power matter most. Culture tells us that if your opinion is different than mine, we should just

stand opposed as fierce enemies instead of sitting at a table and talking about how we might have come to different conclusions. These are all lies the enemy is using to separate, tear down, and cause discord, not just among unbelievers, but in the lives of those who call themselves followers of God...Just like Moses.

- ***Where in your life are you afforded the opportunity to help raise up the next generation to see that God is Holy and worthy among all the lies they are being fed?***

Practice:

We are people who are on a journey as well. The hope is, we are moving to be more like God calls us to be, more like Jesus. Moses was an unbelievable man of God and still had ways that he struggled and needed to be refined. It seems as though his moments of weakness were when he was tired, worn out, beat down, and hurrying to finish the task. When we are rushing it is hard to slow, to stop, and to examine how we are living. This week find opportunities to slow down, to add margin, to stop other tasks that distract, not so you can get caught up on that new show, so that you can examine how you are being refined, how you are being sharpened, how you can be more like Jesus and note where are the areas you struggle. In what ways can you rest so you can reflect?

Anyone have any thoughts or questions?

Prayer Request and closing Prayer

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. sarah@thechapelatseaside.com

Quotes from Sermon:

“The early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the Church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

“Jesus is the true and better Moses who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant.

Jesus is the true and better Rock of Moses who, struck with the rod of God’s justice, now gives us water in the desert.” - Tim Keller

“Your greatest contribution to the kingdom of God may not be something you do, but someone you raise”. - Andy Stanley

“Hurry is a form of violence to our soul.” -John Mark Comer