

MOSES IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 2:11-4:20

**Tonight we'll consider some elements of Moses' time in the wilderness
and see how God grew and guided him there.**

I. A TERRIBLE TIME (2:11-3:1)

A. LEAVING EGYPT (2:11-15)

1. The murder (11-12)
2. The fear (13-14)
3. The flight (15)

B. ARRIVING IN MIDIAN (2:16-3:1)

1. Doing good but being disrespected (16-20)
2. Living as a stranger in a foreign land (21-22)
3. Shepherding his father-in-law's sheep (3:1)
 - A lonely lifestyle and a lousy job

II. A TEACHING TIME (3:2-4:16)

A. DISCOVERING GOD'S NATURE (3:2-6)

1. Dramatic (2-3)
2. Engaged (4)
3. Holy (5-6)

B. HEARING OF GOD'S COMPASSION (3:7-9)

1. God is aware (7, 9) > Seeing their afflicting and hearing their cries
2. God is involved (8) > Delivering from Egypt to a good land

C. LEARNING OF GOD'S PROVISIONS (3:10-4:16)

1. I will send you (3:10)
2. I will be with you (3:11-12)
 - a. Moses: Who am I?
 - b. God: You are the one with whom I am
3. I will inform you (3:13-15)
 - That I am the God of the present and the past
4. I will inspire you (3:16-22)
 - a. To speak of deliverance (16-18)
 - b. Regarding My plans for the Egyptian king (19-20)
 - c. About Israel's plundering of the Egyptians (21-22)
5. I will empower you (4:1-9)
 - a. With your staff (1-5) > Power over demons
 - b. With your hand (6-8) > Power over disease
 - c. With some water (9) > Power over deities

Over please >

6. I will assist you (4:10-13)
 - Moses would receive private speech lessons from God!
7. I will provide for you (4:14-16)
 - a. Note: Even in God's anger with Moses, He answered
 - b. Your brother Aaron is a capable and available spokesman (14)
 - c. I'll teach you how to speak through a translator (15-16)

III. A TURNING TIME (4:17-20)

A. GOD'S DECLARATION (17)

1. A charge: Take the staff and perform signs
2. A reminder: God still expected Moses to move

B. MOSES' OBEDIENCE (18)

- Quitting his job, committing to Egypt and confirmation from Jethro

C. GOD'S REASSURANCE (19)

- You should return soon and you can return safely

D. MOSES' MOVE (20)

- He returned and took his staff

IV. A TRANQUIL TIME: Additional application

A. QUESTION: What is your wilderness?

- A time of loneliness, rehab or unemployment?

B. CONSIDERATION

1. This can be a period of communion and conversation with God
 - a. From 3:2 - 4:19 here are 39 verses of interaction between God and Moses directly
 - b. See Isaiah 46:10 and Matthew 11:28-30
2. This can be an opportunity for experiencing God's graciousness
 - Questions met with answers and excuses met with explanations
3. This can be a means of experiencing God's patience amid our plodding

CONCLUSION:

Plants may not grow well in the wilderness, but people sure can!

Might we trust God's goals and guidance the next time we find ourselves there.