

Moses the Early Years

1. I got some feedback...from last week...and I am thankful for the feed back
 - a. I am prone to going to fast...so I need to hear from you guys...when I am going to fast...so I can slow down
 - b. Stephen's sermon...is so packed with so many smaller themes...that inner connect...to create a larger theme...
 - c. With one main purpose...to reveal Jesus to the religious Pharisees and us
 - d. When I first looked at Stephens sermon...I wanted to read the whole thing as one sermon...and soon realized I couldn't
 - e. The next best thing is 2 sermons...but I would have to go fast
 - f. I sometimes forget...what good is going fast...if we miss the message the Holy Spirit is teaching us
 - g. So now...we will break Stephen's sermon...into 3 or 4 sermons
 - h. Also...FYI...Cathy put the all the Acts sermons on the web site...to revisit
2. Last week we started unveiling the hidden themes in Stephen's sermon
 - a. Stephen used many calculated points...in showing the history of Israel
 - b. There was an awesome strategy in how Stephen laid out his sermon...using themes... symbolisms...and truth...as he reviewed the history of Israel
 - c. Stephen did this without notes...a computer...or proper schooling...not bad for a man who was called to help with a food program

- d. All Stephen needed was humility...and the Holy Spirit...which shows us...it is the Holy Spirit who really does the ministry...not man
- e. A quick review of the themes we saw last week was...
- f. Such as...when God was trying to make a covenant with Abraham... Abraham did not immediately obey God at first
- g. Which parallels how Israel will not accept Jesus right away...who was **also** trying to make a **new covenant** with Israel
- h. Another theme was how the 12 patriarchs rejected Joseph...who was the very **one** who would save them later
- i. Which parallels how Israel rejected Jesus the first time He came to Israel
- j. Each time the nation Israel is in a time of trouble...is when God send a deliverer
- k. The One they rejected...Jesus...will be the One who rescues them next...at Jesus's second coming
- l. How Israel rejected Moses the first time...and on the second time Moses comes...he is able to rescue Israel from Egypt
- m. We left off last week in the middle of Stephen reviewing Moses's life
- n. This week...we are going to back up a little...to look at another theme in Stephen's sermon...the life of Moses
- o. This is also going to be a two part sermon...so we can see some really cool things Stephen points out
- p. Stephen is going to emphasize...different aspects of Moses's life...that Exodus doesn't highlight...which caught my attention

- q. When God rescued Moses from being killed as a baby...it was a terrible time of trouble in the history of Israel...
- r. Israel was treated very harshly as slaves...by a world leader...Pharaoh
- s. Israel was even being forced to kill their children...for population control
- t. In typology...Israel was slaves to Egypt...and Egypt symbolically represents the world...so they were slaves to the world
- u. For us...the world can seem attractive...until it too will make slaves out of us...by causing us to do things we don't want to do
- v. When Israel first went to live in the world...it was great...Egypt had food and riches...Israel was treated like royalty...things were going great
- w. The world leader...Pharaoh...was treating Israel really good...at first...
- x. Then things change...the world leader changes...starts to treat Israel harshly...and makes slave out them
- y. Pharaoh is a parallel of the world leader to come...the anti-Christ...
- z. The book of Daniel...tells us the anti-Christ...will make a covenant of peace and prosperity with Israel...only to break it 3.5 years later
- aa. The world is good at sucking you in with its promises...but will **either** make you a slave...or fail to keep the promises it made to you...
- bb. Whereas...when God makes a promise...He is faithful to keep it...and Jesus hasn't come to enslave us...
- cc. But rather...Jesus has come to set us free from sin...so we desire...or choose to serve Him...because Jesus keeps His promises
- dd. Let's look at what happened to Israel...after Joseph and Pharaoh die

3. Acts 7:17-19, 17 "As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. 18 But then a new king came to the throne of Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph. 19 This king exploited our people and oppressed them, forcing parents to abandon their newborn babies so they would die.

- a. What Stephen is telling us...is part of the covenant promise made to Abraham...recorded in Genesis
- b. That God told Abraham...ahead of time...as part of the covenant promise
- c. That Israel would become a nation in Egypt...they would remain in the land for 4 generations...or 400 years
- d. God even told Abraham...that Egypt would turn his descendants into slaves
- e. After the 400 years...the descendants of Abraham would return to the land God promised Abraham
- f. Stephen's point is...that although Israel are slaves...God is still keeping His promise to Abraham
- g. Exodus tells us...how God was aware of their situation...how He saw how harsh Egypt was treating Israel...and the Lord God...heard their cries...
- h. This should bring us comfort that God sees our situation...and God hears our prayers also...and we too have the promise...
- i. Jesus promised...He will not abandon His church...He will return and get us...in what we call the rapture
- j. God was keeping His promise to Israel...by raising up a deliverer...Moses

- k. God did not keep his promise...by bringing in a concurring king...but instead...God raised up a baby...Moses...born of humble beginnings
 - l. Which is a parallel of another theme...of Jesus
 - m. God sends His only begotten Son...born as a baby...whose mission first mission is to deliver mankind from the sins of the world
 - n. As a sacrifice...a humble servant...not as a concurring king
4. Acts 7:20-21, 20 "At that time Moses was born—a beautiful child in God's eyes. His parents cared for him at home for three months. 21 When they had to abandon him, Pharaoh's daughter adopted him and raised him as her own son.
- a. And just as Pharaoh's daughter rescues Moses...or resurrected Moses from for certain death...
 - b. Who would later return...to become the deliverer of Israel...from the bondage of slavery of the world
 - c. So...Jesus was also doing ministry for 3 years...before He was offered as the sacrifice for the sins of the world
 - d. Only to be resurrected...from the grave...who will return to rescue Israel...who rejected Him the first time
 - e. Pharaoh's daughter accepted the responsibility of raising Moses as a child
 - f. Mary also accepted the responsibility...of raising God's Son as her own...and even Joseph adopted Jesus and raised Him as his own
5. Acts 7:22 Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action.
- a. Moses was then adopted by Pharaoh's daughter...and raised by Pharaoh

- b. For the first 40 years...Moses was trained in all the best schooling in Egypt...the best in the world...learning all the wisdom of Egypt
 - c. And as Bill brought up last week...in Acts 7:22...it says Moses was powerful in both speech and action
 - d. To later confessing to God...at the burning bush...that he was not able to speak for God...something changed
 - e. Moses was a young man...who was good looking...who was in line to possibly be a Pharaoh one day...super rich...living a king's lifestyle
 - f. He got away with murder...literally...when he killed the Egyptian
 - g. Moses is living what we would call the American dream... he had political power...money ...he was above the law...
6. Acts 7:23-25, 23 "One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. 24 He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man's defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. 25 Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't.
7. Slide... For the first 40 years Moses lived for Moses
- a. Until one day...God pierced Moses's heart...which caused Moses to desire help...his countrymen
 - b. The problem comes about...when Moses responded to the harsh treatment of his countrymen...in the flesh...in his own strength
 - c. Moses thought he could be in the will of God...and be in the world at the same time

8. Slide...Moses was doing what was right in his own mind
 - a. Moses assumed his fellow Israelites...would realize that God had sent him to rescue them...
 - b. But they didn't need another harsh prideful man...they already had Pharaoh
 - c. Moses must have thought that he was really something...because he was surprised the Israelites didn't want to follow him
 - d. When we think of Moses...we think of an old man...with a gray beard...who walked with a staff...parted the red sea...ten commandments
 - e. The point Stephen is making...is Moses would leave all the money...the world power behind...to follow...in faith...what God put in his heart
 - f. The writer of Hebrews...makes this point
9. Heb 11:23-26, 23 It was by faith that Moses' parents hid him for three months when he was born. They saw that God had given them an unusual child, and they were not afraid to disobey the king's command. 24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. 25 He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.
10. Slide...Moses chose to give up a life of luxury for a life of oppression
 - a. Moses chose... to share the oppression of God's people...instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of the sins of the world
 - b. Just as Jesus chose to do the will of the Father...by giving up all the rights of heaven

- c. By humbling Himself to become a man...taking on the full force of the worlds sin...so we can be free
- d. In the condition Moses was in...he could not serve God...he was full of pride...killing Egyptians...judging his fellow Israelites...such pride
- e. We see this today...in worldly Christians...judging each other...talking garbage about each other...thinking they are leaders
- f. Even the religious guys of Jesus's day...were so full of pride...thinking God was using them...but God was actually opposing them
- g. Jesus said...don't be like the Pharisees who are full of pride...who are hypocrites
- h. Stephen then points out that for the next 40 years...God takes Moses out into the wilderness...to teach him...he is nothing without God
- i. After God works the world out of Moses...how to depend on God...is when God allows Moses...to go back...and rescue Israel God's way
- j. Not as a king of the world...but as a humble servant of God...nothing more...it takes 40 years to accomplish this humbling
- k. God is the one who is to rescue Israel...not Moses...God doesn't want to share His glory with a worldly man...but will with humble servant
- l. In this humbling process...Moses finds out...what is more valuable than all the world can offer

11. Heb 11:26-28, 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. 27 It

was by faith that Moses left the land of Egypt, not fearing the king's anger. He kept right on going because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.

- a. From a worldly perspective...Moses gave up everything and got nothing
- b. From a spiritual perspective...Moses gave up nothing and got everything
- c. Moses's value system is changed...the man of the world...who had all the world can offer...
- d. Became the man of God...a humble man...a man that God could use
- e. Here is how God feels about prideful leaders

12. Num 12:1-3, 1 While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman. 2 They said, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he spoken through us, too?" But the Lord heard them. 3 (Now Moses was very humble—more humble than any other person on earth.)

- a. That is quit a statement...the most humble man on earth
- b. Moses went from the prince of the world...to the most humble man on earth
- c. Miriam and Aaron had not learned the lesson of humility yet
- d. So dad has to kick them in the pants

13. Num 12:4-5 So immediately the Lord called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and said, "Go out to the Tabernacle, all three of you!" So the three of them went to the Tabernacle. 5 Then the Lord descended in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle. "Aaron and Miriam!" he called, and they stepped forward.

- a. The Lord stood...in the entrance of the tabernacle...not good...here is why

b. Andy read in order to emphasize ...

14. Num 12:6-8, 6 And the Lord said to them, "Now listen to what **I** say: "If there were prophets among you, **I**, **Not You** **I** the Lord, would reveal myself in visions. **I** would speak to them in dreams.⁷ But not with my servant Moses. Of all my house, he is the one **I** trust. ⁸ **I** speak to him face to face, clearly, and not in riddles! He sees the Lord as he is. So why were you not afraid to criticize my servant Moses?"

- a. A servant leader like Moses...wants God to get the glory
- b. A prideful leader wants themselves to become the most important...usually by criticizing God's chosen leader
- c. The real leader of any ministry...or church...is God
- d. If God is not the leader...then it is not God's church
- e. A powerful ministry...is one who puts God first...and its servant leaders are humble...Jesus says this in

15. Luke 12:47-48, 47 "And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. 48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

- a. Do you think Moses understood this...do you think Stephen understood this...what about Paul who is listening to Stephen's sermon

- b. The Son of God lived this for us to model...He gave up...being God...He humbled Himself...to become man...to serve the Father
- c. All motivated by the Fathers love for us...and the world
- d. Jesus died for us...so He could deliver...the creation He made in His own image...from the sins of the world
- e. Do we live a life that resembles Christ...that resembles Moses
- f. Does our reverent fear of the Lord...humble us...does our love for the Lord...cause us to desire to...fully submit to Him
- g. Do we want God...more than the things of the world
- h. Are we so stuck in the world...that we are unable to move in faith
- i. Are we in the wilderness...are we allowing God to mold and shape us