

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

From Egypt to Canaan

No 13

Moses My Servant is Dead

*Moses My servant is dead;
now therefore arise, cross this Jordan ...* Joshua 1:2

There were some things that God could not do through Moses. He chose to do them through Joshua. Joshua was a man of action. He was anxious for the conquest that lay ahead. He was the man God had prepared for the moment and the time had come. God has a way of changing His workers and maintaining His work. He is never in a hurry, never at a loss, never in a crisis. He will achieve all that He has said He will accomplish. In all this He has not changed.

God Has His Plans and Purposes

"In the beginning God created ... and God said."

From the very beginning of what we know God has been at work in His world, and will be to the end, and He has his purposes in it all.

It is evident that there are those who oppose Him and there are those who serve Him.

God Has Chosen His Servants

God gave Moses this title: 'Moses my Servant.' He took him out of the desert of Midian. Moses did not want the assignment. He made one excuse after the other. Finally he spoke clearly. 'Please Lord, send some one else!' Exodus 4:13. Note also Timothy's reluctance after years of service in Second Timothy 4:5. But, God not only called Moses, He equipped and enabled him superbly for the task he was to perform.

Jesus came as a servant, and in washing His disciple's feet passed the calling on to them.

He called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all Mark 9:35."

Angels, Hebrews says,

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

True leadership is real servanthood.

It is a privilege to be a servant of the Most High God.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Psalm 84:10AV.

God's Servants Have Limitations

Moses was born a slave but mentally and academically trained in Egypt. He was humbled, then called and endowed in Midian. He exhibits leadership qualities any general would envy. He was meek (self controlled) above all men Numbers 12:3. But for all that he was flesh; made of dust.

Because Moses broke faith with God over the waters of Meribah-Kadesh God put Moses aside and selected Joshua.

Joshua had already been commissioned to leadership. There is no evidence of judgment. Rather, God needed a new man with other qualities to lead this renewed conquest. It was more rigorous than that at Kadesh Barnea. (Numbers 27:14, Deuteronomy 31:22, 32:48-52.)

God's Assignments Come to an End

It was true of Aaron Numbers 20:23. At God's command Moses took Aaron to the top of Mt Hor and stripped him of his robes and vested them upon Eleazar his son, who then became High Priest.

It was true of Elisha. The mantle that fell

from the shoulders of Elijah was picked up by his servant Elisha who doubled the work of his master. It is a parallel with Moses and Joshua.

It was true of the Levites, Numbers 4.

Their service was God's gift to Aaron the priest Numbers 18:6. Their task was, for those who were able, to carry and serve the Tabernacle from age 30 to 50, twenty years. In Numbers 8:23-26 we learn that their tenure of service was 25 years, from 25 to 50. At 50 the Levite was to hand over to a younger man. It was very physical work.

After 50 years the burden of carrying the tabernacle is no longer theirs, but involvement was not over:

"They may, however, assist their brothers in the tent of meeting, to keep an obligation, but they themselves shall do no (physical) work. Numbers 8:26

Before the age of 30 a man is sorting himself out. He is learning what his gifts abilities really are. It is the time when youthful ambitions are moderated, when he chooses a partner and establishes his family identity. His most active, stable, productive years are from the age of 30 to 50, but also a time when fitness falls from its peak at a rate of 1% or more per annum.

It is a blessing if we are enabled to use our full strength and powers in the service of our King, and then hand over to a younger person. But there is still much we can do.

It is incumbent upon us to train others.

Moses his Aaron, Elijah his Elisha and Paul his Timothy:

The things which you have heard from me in the

presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Second Timothy 2:2.

Servanthood does not end upon active retirement, it runs on through our remaining years and then into eternity.

God Seeks Our Fellowship

Moses was privileged to enjoy intimate fellowship with God and in that context Joshua was trained See Exodus 33:7-11:

Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent. v11.

God keeps these trysts with His servants with joy, for His inheritance is in His saints. It is in this context that He does His deepest work.

"Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15 (Cp Acts 13:22)

God Rewards Faithfulness

Despite his limitations -

Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, Hebrews 3:5.

And it is required of a steward that he is found to be faithful. On the day when we stand before the Lord our work will be assessed on account of our faithfulness according to our ability, not the degree of visible success when compared to the work of others:.

'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:23 NIV

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB, except as acknowledged.

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

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