Moses: Seeking Justice Exodus 2:11-25 April 6, 2022

Introduction: War, racism, poverty, the denial of human rights, these are only a few of the bitter fruits of injustice that fill our world. Remedies to such complex problems have ranged from the nonviolent protest of Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr., to the present-day insurgent movements in Latin America.

Moses confronted the unjust social, political, and economic system of Egypt. He enjoyed the privileges of living in the pharaoh's palace since birth. Yet God placed with him a hatred for oppression and injustice. When he was 40 years old, we observed him intervening to bring about justice for his people. **Read Exodus 2:11-25.**

Review Questions:

- 1. What might have been some of Moses feelings and motivations before, during and after the incident?
- 2. What does Moses do to try and help his fellow Jews (vv. 11-13)?
- 3. Despite his sensitivity to the injustice he witnessed, why is the actions he takes wrong?
- 4. Moses was raised in an environment of opulence, power and knowledge. What did it cost him to get involved?
- 5. How was Moses (vv.14-15; Acts 7: 25-28) misunderstood by the very people he was trying to help?
- 6. How does Moses again demonstrate an active concern for justice when he arrives in Midian (vv.15-17).
- 7. How does Reuel's reaction to Moses' aid contrast to that of the Hebrews? What happened to Moses in Midian as a result (vv.21-22)?
- 8. Moses spends the next 40 years with the Midianites. Meanwhile the Israelites "groaned in their slavery" and cried for help. Describe God's response in (vv.24-25).
- 9. Reflect on Moses experience in this chapter. How might each one prepared him for leading God's people out of Egypt?

Reflect and Pray:

- What mistakes have you made in a genuine effort to right a wrong?
- What experiences and training has God given you that could be used in the future for furthering God's purpose?
- There are many areas of injustice today: racism, neglect of the poor and needy, corruption. What one unjust situation might God be calling you to help change?

Dear God, Thank You for this study. Please give me clarity, directions, courage and a sense of your timing. Amen.

Now or Later: Reflect on Jesus teaching on the final judgement and how it relates to our involvement with the poor, the needy, the prisoner, and the sick see (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Exodus 2:11-25(NKJV): ¹¹ Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹² So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

¹⁴ Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

¹⁸When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How *is it that* you have come so soon today?"

¹⁹ And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

²⁰ So he said to his daughters, "And where *is* he? Why *is* it *that* you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

²¹ Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses. ²² And she bore *him* a son. He called his name Gershom, ^[d] for he said, "I have been a ^[e] stranger in a foreign land."

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*.