



## “The Making of a Man of God: Moses” (Exodus 1-4) 2014

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Intro: Moses, Jesus, and an old bearded man were out playing golf one day. Moses pulled up to the tee and drove a long one. It landed in the fairway but rolled directly toward a water trap. Quickly Moses raised his club, the water parted, and the ball rolled to the other side, safe and sound. Next, Jesus strolls up to the tee and hits a nice long one directly toward the same water trap. It landed directly in the center of the pond, but it never sank. Jesus casually walked out onto the water and chipped the ball onto the green. The old bearded guy gets up and randomly whacks the ball off the tee. It heads out over the fence and into oncoming traffic on a nearby street. It bounced off a truck and then hits a nearby tree. From there it bounces onto the roof of a nearby shack, rolls down into the gutter, down the down spout and out onto the fairway, straight toward the aforementioned pond. On the way to the pond, it hits a little stone and bounces out over the water and onto a lily pad. Suddenly, a bullfrog jumped up on the lily pad and snatched the ball into his mouth. Just then, an eagle swooped down, grabbed the frog & flew away. As the eagle passed over the green, the frog squealed with fright and dropped the ball. The ball bounced into the hole for a hole in one. Moses then turned to Jesus and said, “I hate playing with your Dad.”

2:11-14 See Acts 7:22-25; Moses’ problem is that he is running ahead of God. He is impetuous, he is impulsive. He is a man with a calling, but a man who has grown up in Egypt, known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He has the finest education (he’s smart), knows how to get things done (a mover and a shaker). And I get the impression he’s pretty well built too (a man’s man). But his actions here are not in line with God’s will, and God is about to deal with Moses as a result of those actions.

2:15-25 Gershom = “an alien there.”

3:1 God takes Moses from a palace to a pasture, from reputation and influence to tending sheep. But guess what those painful transitions did for Moses? See Numbers 12:3.

3:2-10 Amazing grace! Despite Moses failure, god still wants to use him. He still has a calling on his life. This reminds me of Peter after denying three times that he even knew the Lord. Remember the angel ‘s instruction to the women who saw him after the resurrection? Mark 16:7 Go, tell his disciples **and Peter**... John 21, Jesus deals with Peter, then instructs him to take care of His sheep.

3:11 One of the challenges of being humbled as deeply as Moses has been humbled is that now you don't feel worthy or capable to anything for the Lord.

3:12-4:13 Moses not only does not feel capable or worthy to go, he does not want to go!

4:14-18 Despite his feelings, his excuses, and his lack of desire to go, he decides to do so.

4:19-24 To say the least, verse 24 is surprising, and a bit strange. What has Moses done now?

4:25-26 See Genesis 17:10-13; Moses is a humbled man, but for whatever reason, he neglects to circumcise his son. His wife Zipporah somehow realizes why the Lord is so upset, so she circumcises their son. There is a very important lesson here that we do not want to miss. Moses is a humbled man, a man that has now recommitted his life to God's will. He is on his way a very public (and powerful) ministry. But he has neglected things at home. And that is where ministry begins, and ends.

It is surreal to me the timing of this message. I don't if all of us have heard about Pastor Bob Coy (summarize). I am still in shock, and disbelief. But let's understand that the end of Bob's public ministry is the result of failure at home. After hearing the news about Pastor Bob, I immediately told Dave Dodge and Art Dykstra to keep an even closer eye on me.

People who have been greatly humbled can still fail.

Note: Circumcision involves the most private part of our lives. Nakedness has to be exposed for circumcision to be administered. I taught this past Friday evening at the CCOTL Men's Conference on Samson. I did not really want to teach on Samson, because I have taught on him at men's conferences more than any other Bible character. But that's the way I felt led. I opened with I Timothy 4:10 (read). Samson was proud (Moses' problem), and he had hidden sin in his life. His failure to humble himself, repent, over time brought his power and public ministry to an abrupt and devastating halt. At the end I asked the men what other men knew them intimately and personally. I told them about my accountability partners Dave Dodge and Art Dykstra. I encouraged them to confess any hidden sin to other men they respect and could trust.

Let me pause and ask you: Any hidden sin in your life? Any thing you're neglecting at home? Do you need to humble yourself before God humbles you? Do you have the kind of close relationships with other Christian men/women that you can hold one another accountable?

4:27-31 So Moses' home life is set in order, and he now begins his public ministry for the Lord. But the challenges for Moses have only just begun.

## LESSONS

- Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches...apart from me you can do nothing.
- Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me."
- Romans 2:11...God does not show favoritism.
- I Timothy 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.