

GOD'S WILL, OUR WAY

Exodus 2; Acts 7:23-29

Moses--what a guy!

One of the super-heroes of the faith!

No one held in greater esteem.

No one accomplished more for God

Listed in Heb. 11 among that "great cloud of witnesses that trusted God & testify that it's worth it to trust God & be faithful to Him.

MOSES LEARNS HIS LESSON

Exod. 2:11-15 *"One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. ¹²Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" ¹⁴The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." ¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well."*

Acts 7:20-29 *"When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites. ²⁴He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. ²⁵Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. ²⁶The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' ²⁷"But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' ²⁹When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons."*

Moses sees suffering God's people are going through.

Moses knows God's purpose to bless His people
and make them a great nation.

Moses wants to see God's people freed & He wants to do God's will!

He wants to see God glorified!

He wants God's purpose accomplished!

His heart's right!

Moses is God's deliverer,

but he tries to accomplish God's plan, man's way.

He takes matters into his own hands

By the way, anytime you have to "look this way & that" to be sure no one's watching, you can be sure you're doing it man's way, NOT God's!

He tries to do his God-given job using *human* methods.

It doesn't work!

Results:

1. He has to bury a smelly cadaver.
2. He's rejected, both by Pharaoh and by God's people.
3. He wastes 40 years waiting in the desert!

He learns danger of trusting human effort to achieve God's purpose

He learns that God makes all things beautiful ***IN HIS TIME!***

Efforts of flesh NEVER accomplish God's purpose!

Godly people can become SO impatient to see things happen NOW!

We forget to WAIT for GOD!

Boy can we make messes when we try to do things *our* way!

If we're struggling and conniving to try to "make it happen," that's not God working things out for us.

When we strive, & claw, & fight to "pull it off," God didn't do it.

God doesn't get the glory.

Moses Lesson:

Doing GOD'S will, MAN'S way,

NEVER produces what we're looking for!

Moses has to learn to wait for God to accomplish His purpose in His life

Biblical case supporting Moses' lesson:

Psalms 46:10 [NAS] "**Cease striving** and know that **I** am God; [stop. let go, relax, be quiet]

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth."

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in **the LORD** with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge **him**, and **he** will make your paths straight.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? **The LORD** is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹but **those who hope in the LORD** [those who "wait on" Him!] will renew their strength. **They** will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Zech 4:6 "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: '**NOT by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,**' says the LORD Almighty.

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for **man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.** ["Man's anger doesn't produce God's righteousness!"]

2 Cor. 10:3-5 *For though we live in the world, **we do not wage war as the world does.** ⁴The weapons we fight with are **NOT the weapons of the world.** On the contrary, they have **divine** power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

Ephesians 6:10-13 *"Finally, be strong **in the Lord and in his mighty power.** ¹¹Put on the full **armor of God** so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore **put on the full armor of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

OTHER GODLY PEOPLE HAVE TO LEARN SAME LESSON:

We're so quick to try to develop a strategy to accomplish what God has promised to give us.

[Let's check out some **BIBLICAL EXAMPLES**; look up story at home!]

Abraham: strategy to have child God promised to give him

God promised to give them a child.

They come up with *their* way to work it out for God.

It's taking Him too long; maybe He needs help!

Result: conflict in home, loss of great servant, and birth of nation--an adversary--to afflict God's people.

Jacob: scheming (mom's strategy)

=> to get what God promised

God promises he'll rule over his older brother.

God can accomplish His purpose.

They don't see it happening--they'd better help God out!

Rachel comes up with a plan to trick Isaac and get blessing!

Result: Jacob escapes to Midian 'til his brother cools off--Esau's kids were constantly at war with Israel..

Jeroboam: scheme to keep the kingdom

God promises He'll make his kingdom as enduring as David's, if he remains faithful.

When people start going to Jerusalem to worship, he's afraid he'll lose them, so he comes up with a better idea!

He'll establish worship centers for Yahweh in Bethel and Dan.

Result: His dynasty is replaced; future generations keep falling back to man-centered worship.

David: counting troops to see how strong they were

God promises His protection and blessing; victory over enemies.

David sees enemy troops.

Instead of trusting God, he counts to see if they're strong enough.

Result: God judges Israel with a plague; loss of 70,000 men!

David: Positive Lesson

God promises to make him king—He already anointed him.

His troops want him to kill Saul, when he has chance—

“It’s time to get on with it, David!”

David won’t touch the Lord’s anointed.

God will handle that HIS way— in HIS time!

Result: God blesses David and protects him; in *HIS* time He gives him the kingdom.

WE HAVE TO LEARN MOSES’ LESSON

In our church,

God has promised: “I will build my church.”

He’s told us how to do it: Make disciples--train the saints for works of service. Let Him build His church.

But we have a better idea.

We design all kinds of strategies and programs

God says it won’t be by our clever schemes

It’s God who adds to the church daily those who are saved.

We plant! We water! But GOD gives the increase!

1 Corinthians 1-2

Here was a church that had everything.

1:7 *They weren’t lacking any of the gifts of the Spirit*

[Paul warns us that it’s not our gifts that will change the world!]

1:18--*It’s the message of the cross that’s the power of God*

1:20--*God has made the world’s wisdom into foolishness*

1:22-- *The Jews are looking for signs*

The Greeks are looking for wisdom

[Modern Intellectuals are looking for a rational explanation]

[Postmoderns are looking for . . . a sense of spirituality]

[Boomers are looking for a vision]

But we preach Christ--crucified--a stumbling block to both! [To all of the above!]

HE’s the source of our power and our wisdom--NOT the world’s standards

24 “but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of HIM that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹Therefore, as it is written: “**Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.**”

¹When I came to you, brothers, **I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom** as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ²**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**

⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith **might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.**

¹²We have **not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God**, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Modern addiction to *human* strategies to accomplish God's work.

We want to do things man's way—the way the world does it—the way that's popularly acceptable!

Problem: If we can “pull it off” with our strategies, what do we need GOD for? God has called us to do His will, HIS way--NOT our way!

In our personal life,

God has given us everything we need.

He has promised to give us everything we need to live godly lives.

He has promised to give us everything we need to do His work!

Yet, we devise plans and strategies to be sure everything works out!

We need to learn Moses' lesson!

Doing GOD'S will, MAN'S way,

NEVER produces what we're looking for!

We MUST wait on the Lord!

In our church—to do what He wants us to do.

We believe HE wants to reproduce faithful followers of Christ

But all our great plans won't **accomplish** it!

We plant! We water!

But **GOD gives the increase!**

In His way! In His time! We must wait on HIM!

In our personal life.

Stop the struggle. Those who *wait on the Lord* renew their strength!

He can transform our life into something beautiful.

In His way! In His time!

But, we must wait on HIM!

=> Teach Me THY Way, O Lord

Teach me thy way, O Lord; teach me thy way!

Thy guiding grace afford; teach me thy way!

Help me to walk aright, more by faith, less by sight;

Lead me with heav'nly light; teach me thy way!