

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

October 2013

Moses: Learning To Lead God's Way

Lesson #4: Developing Spiritual Endurance

INTRODUCTION

Each of us has experienced situations where God's timing is different than our timing. Share one example which comes to mind.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Exodus 5

Note: When Moses confronted Pharaoh the first time he was riding the crest of confidence, because of God's direct involvement and the support of the Hebrew elders. We see a series of four interrelated responses/reactions to Moses' proclamation, "Let My people go!"

1. How did the Pharaoh's reaction to Moses' and Aaron's request show his perspective of God?
2. How was their request different the second time?
3. What was Pharaoh's real concern?
4. What was the slave drivers new tasking?
5. How did Moses react to the Israelite foremen's anger? Where was Moses' focus?
6. What do you think God was trying to teach Moses?

Note: One of the deep lessons the Jewish slaves must learn is that they too will suffer loss. They will have to pay a price for their freedom-to-be. It is not just a gift from God. Moses himself hardly seems to understand the burden of the mystery. But slowly he moves on, motivated by faith in God and yearning for his people.¹

7. Moses' initial response was "why?" (Vv. 22-23) and "how" (v. 12). How does that compare to our response when God doesn't react with the timing or the way that we expect?

Read Exodus 6:1-13

Note: Right from the start God reemphasizes his power—and the assurance it will be adequate. "I am the Lord" has the idea of Divine force capable of violence and destructive energy.² Man's extreme need is a God-sized opportunity for saving. Ps 12:5.

8. What assurances did God make to Moses? What does He tell Moses to do?
9. How can we become more naturally dependent on God and be more patient?
10. What can we learn about God's timing and our endurance?

APPLICATION

How does God's response to Moses' complaints encourage you today?

We think that if God is going to relieve our sufferings, he ought to do so immediately. Any delay vitiates his promises. We live in a fast-paced world, and we want God to respond with the same efficiency we expect from high-speed computers. We are not inclined to think through the delays in Scripture: Moses' forty years in the back side of the wilderness; the delay of twenty or more years before Joseph is vindicated.... But God is not constrained by our petty timetables. Committed though He is to His people's good, He well understands that delays are not always bad. Moreover, if we walk with God long enough, we begin to learn the lesson ourselves: we look back from a longer perspective and start to appreciate that God's timing is best.

—D.A. Carson, How Long, O Lord?, p. 26

^{1 2} *The teacher's Bible commentary*. 1972 (F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (56, 57). Nashville: Broadman and Holman