

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

June 18, 2010—The Jesus Way—Moses

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts—Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” —Jesus (John 14:6)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Ways of Jesus<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Abraham—A faith lifeb) Jacob—A man who wrestled with Godc) Joseph—From slave to rulerd) Moses—God’s friend, a man with a purpose2) He Wrote the Book<p>More words in our Holy Scriptures are ascribed to Moses than to any other single speaker or writer. The words of Moses, written in the first five books of the Bible, are the foundational words of revelation of God to us. In the Hebrew tradition, both the ancient and modern, everything following the Books of Moses is either commentary or elaboration on Moses.¹</p>3) The Birth of Moses²<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Who is this woman?<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Exodus 2:1, 9b) Who is Moses’ dad?c) Exodus 6:20; Deuteronomy 26:59<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Was their role in redemptive history important?4) Moses’ Upbringing<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Presumably, Moses had a privileged upbringing<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Exodus 2:105) The Making of a Hero³<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Moses Kills an Egyptian (He is 40 years old at this time)<ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Exodus 2:11-12ii) Why was Moses out wandering around?iii) What drives a person to kill another?iv) Did Moses know it was wrong?

¹ *The Jesus Way*. 59.

² *The Man Who Wrestled With God*. Chapter 8.

³ *Ibid*. Chapter 9.

- b) Moses Flees the Country (~100-150 miles)
 - i) Exodus 2:13-15
 - ii) Why did Pharaoh intend to kill Moses?
 - iii) Why didn't Moses stay to fight for his brethren, to lead them to freedom?
 - (1) Why did God choose to leave the Hebrews in slavery another 40 years?

c) Moses in the Wilderness

- i) Recall:
 - (1) Abram (Abraham): Genesis 12:5—sent by God
 - (2) Jacob: Genesis 28:5—running from Esau
 - (3) Joseph: Genesis 37:28—sold by his brothers
- ii) What did these three learn in the wilderness?

d) Moses Emerges from the Wilderness

Moses runs into the wilderness. Like Jacob before him, he is an exile. Like Joseph, Moses also gives up everything: his favored position in the palace, his friends and protectors, his guarantee of a future privileged position in society. We have no details of what Moses experienced inwardly, but we can imagine that he felt the same kind of desolation, loneliness, and anxiety that had swept over Jacob and Joseph.⁴

- i) Exodus 2:16-17
 - (1) Moses defends the daughters of Reuel
 - (2) Given his defense of the Hebrew slaves and this incident, what does that tell us about the character of Moses, about his deep passion?
 - (3) Moses marries and lives comfortably in suburbia
 - ...the wilderness experience is soon left far behind, and so are memories of Egypt and the suffering of his people. Moses settles down to a pleasant experience, surrounded by his new-found and loving family. He begins to act like many a man who has acted before and after him. If he lived today, we would no doubt find him in suburbia, going to the office during the week, mowing the lawn on Saturdays, and taking the family on outings in the family camper on Sundays. He has found the "good life"...

6) God Prepares Moses⁶

- a) Moses' resume:
 - i) Raised in Pharaoh's home
 - ii) Graduated *summa cum laude* (highest honor) from Egypt U (I made up this)
 - iii) Project manager for major construction effort (if you believe the movie *The Ten Commandments*)
 - iv) Escaped felon
 - v) Married with kids
 - vi) Shepherd for father-in-law

b) Is Moses now living the "good life" as described above?

Moses had a most unusual post-graduate course. God took him out of the activity

⁴ *Ibid.* 89.

⁵ *Ibid.* 92.

⁶ *Men Who Met God.* Chapter 7.

⁷ *Ibid.* 70.

⁸ Wright, N.T. "Paul, Arabia, and Galatians 1:17." http://www.ntwrightpage.com/Wright_Paul_Arabia_Elijah.pdf.

	<p>and noise of Egypt and placed him in the silence of the open spaces. He kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law. Tending the sheep, he learned the lessons of meditation and observation that he could have only learned in silence.</p> <p>Probably more than anything else, Moses learned to know himself. That knowledge was part of God's preparation of the man for his future tasks. We, today, know everything but ourselves. We never really know ourselves because we cannot get quiet enough.⁷</p> <p>c) Who else was given time?</p> <p>i) Galatians 1:17-18</p> <p>If this is correct [that Paul tells us this out of the tradition of Elijah], Saul certainly did not go to Arabia in order to evangelize. He might have been doing what a puzzled zealous prophet might be expected to do: going back to the source to resign his commission. Alternatively, and perhaps preferably, he might be conceived of as doing what a puzzled, newly commissioned prophet might do, complaining (like Moses, Jeremiah, and others) that he is not able to undertake the work he has been assigned.⁸</p> <p>ii) Acts 9:30</p> <p>(1) Some believe Paul in Tarsus for 10 years before Barnabas went looking for him (Acts 11:25)</p> <p>7) What Does all of This Mean for Us?</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer
7:00 – ??	If you would like prayer, please come up front and one or more of us will remain to pray with you.

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Au, Walkie and Noreen Cannon Au. (2006). *The Discerning Heart: Exploring the Christian Path*. Paulist Press.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. (1995). *The Cost of Discipleship*. Simon & Schuster.
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- Friesen, James G. et al. (2004). *Living From the Heart Jesus Gave You: The Essentials of Christian Living From The Live Model*. Shepherd's House, Inc.
- Foster, Richard J. (1998). *Streams of Living Waters: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith*. HarperSanFrancisco.
- Ginzberg, Louis. (2003). *Legends of the Jews*. V1 & 2. The Jewish Publication Society.
- Haase, Albert. (2008). *Coming Home to Your True Self: Leaving the Emptiness of False Attractions*. IVP Books.
- Martin, James. (2005). *Become Who You Are*. Hidden Spring.
- Nouwen, Henri. (1981). *The Way of the Heart: Connecting with God Through Prayer, Wisdom, and Silence*. Ballantine Books.
- Ortberg, John. (2010). *The Me I Want To Be*. Zondervan.
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- Peterson, Eugene H. (2007). *The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways that Jesus is the Way*. Eerdman's Publishing Company.

- Rohr, Richard. (2004). *Adam's Return: the Five Promises of Male Initiation*. The Crossroad Publishing Company.
- _____. (2002). *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*. The Crossroad Publishing Company.
- Sanford, John A. 1987). *The Man Who Wrestled With God*. Paulist Press.
- Schwartz, Christian A. (2009). *The 3 Colors of Your Spirituality*. ChurchSmart Resources.
- Shelley, Bruce L. (1995). *Church History in Plain Language*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- Tozer, A.W. (1986). *Men Who Met God*. Christian Publications.
- Yancey, Phillip. (2002). *Reaching for the Invisible God*. Zondervan.