

Anthology | Learning to Love the Stories of God

Week 3: The Call of Moses (Exodus 2:23-3:22)

Read the story:

When?

This story occurs in the era of Redeemed to Worship. It happens after Israel is enslaved in Egypt and Moses (a Jew/Hebrew) is raised in Pharaoh's household. It happens before the ten plagues, the parting of the Red Sea and the Exodus out of Egypt.

Who?

Moses, nation of Israel, God, the Angel of the Lord, Egyptians, King of Egypt and the Egyptian Taskmakers

Where?

Moses is in Midian at Mt. Horeb (aka The Mountain of God aka Mount Sinai) (which is in the Eastern part of Egypt). Israel is enslaved in Egypt.

Summarize the story:

At the end of Exodus chapter two, Pharaoh dies and Israel groans from the midst of their slavery. God hears their cries and remembers His covenant with Abraham and His people. God's Angel appears to Moses in a burning bush that's on fire but doesn't burn up. He tells Moses that he has heard Israel's cries and He will use Moses to rescue them.

God's plan is to send Moses to Pharaoh to talk to him and to save his people. Moses is unsure about this idea. God says, "I'll be with you. I am who I am." God tell Moses to tell them the God of their forefathers sent Him and that He's going to set them free from slavery. Moses is to tell the Elders the plan and then go to Pharaoh with the plan. God goes ahead and warns Moses that Pharaoh won't let them go until God makes him. When God frees them, they will plunder Egypt. He will free them with all kinds of miraculous wonders that will show off his goodness and glory.

He also tells Moses that He wants to free His people so they can follow Him, be with Him and worship Him.

Analyze the story:

Attributes of God displayed:

- God is present. (He tells Moses "I will be with you" as you do what I've called you to do.)
- God is compassionate. (He hears His people suffering and saves His people despite their sin.)
- God is faithful. (He remembers His covenant.)
- God is a sender of rescuers, missionaries and redeemers.
- God is redeemer.
- God is King of Kings. (The whole story exposes that God is the superior King over Pharaoh.)
- God is powerful. (He promises to overcome Pharaoh's resistance, no matter how fierce.)
- God is passionate about His own worship and praise.
- God hates idolatry. (because God is setting them free to worship the one true God instead of Pharaoh or any of the false Egyptian gods.)

Who is who in the story? (Who is like us? Who is like Christ?)

- We are like the Israelites in that we are suffering because of our slavery to sin and desperate for God to save us.

- We are like the Egyptians in that we deserve wrath and we are enemies of God outside of His gracious salvation.
- We are like Pharaoh in that we resist God until His mighty work overwhelms our resistance.
- We are like Moses in that we are sent out as messengers by God for the redemption of His people, and we are to be comforted by the presence of our God.
- The phrase “the Angel of the Lord” often indicates Jesus’ literal presence in the Old Testament.
- Moses is like Jesus because He serves as our mediator. He pleads our case and leads us into freedom.
- Moses is like Jesus because He’s the redeemer sent by God to rescue His people from slavery.

Connect the story:

Parallel Statements:

- God accomplishes salvation.
- God uses His servant (like Moses) to accomplish salvation for other people.
- God keeps His covenant/promises. (He is faithful to His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)
- God is intimately aware of His people’s suffering and He is willing to do great work to put an end to our greatest oppression.
- God saves because of His compassion when He sees us suffering and enslaved.
- God saves His people to free them to worship Him.
- God gives us a new identity in Himself.
- God’s outstretched hand overcomes any and all resistance.
- God sends a leader/mediator to save His people.
- God promises to deliver His people to a prosperous land.

Apply the story:

- The realization that God has been sending redeemers, saving people and specifically sent Jesus to redeem and save us should lead our hearts to rejoice.
- Hear the reality of people’s suffering and have compassion on them.
- Fight against idolatry in your heart and in the heart of others. (Because God is working to free His people from idol worship to the real worship of Himself.)
- Center your life on making God’s name known and glorified.
- Be secure in your new identity. (Because we once were slave to sin but now we are free. We should continually remind ourselves of this truth and what God has done to save us.)
- Join God in His mission of freeing people from slavery to sin, knowing that He is with you.

Who needs this story?

- Proud people. (Those who depend on themselves for their own salvation.)
- Resistant people. (Those who like Pharaoh resist God.)
- Uncompassionate people (People who don’t notice or lovingly respond to the suffering of others.)
- People who doubt God’s faithfulness. (God always remembers His covenant love.)
- People who aren’t secure in their new identity. (If they always feel enslaved and encumbered by their sin despite the truth of the gospel.)
- Idolators (Everyone who needs to be set free by God to come worship the one true God.)
- People who are not on mission. (God’s sending us to set others free.)