

Beginning Again

Exodus 2:11-15 HCSB Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people and observed their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. (12) Looking all around and seeing no one, he struck the Egyptian dead and hid him in the sand. (13) The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you attacking your neighbor?" (14) "Who made you a leader and judge over us?" the man replied. "Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses became afraid and thought: What I did is certainly known. (15) When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

In today's passage, Moses needed a fresh start as he sat by that well in Midian.

He started out great. (Acts 7:20-22; Hebrews 11:24-27)

He'd been miraculously adopted into the family of Pharaoh, with access to the best schools in antiquity. He was a prince of Egypt.

- **Acts 7:20-22 HCSB** At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful before God. He was nursed in his father's home three months, (21) and when he was left outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted and raised him as her own son. (22) So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was powerful in his speech and actions.
- **Hebrews 11:24-27 HCSB** By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter (25) and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. (26) For he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward. (27) By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for he persevered, as one who sees Him who is invisible.

Now at midlife, he found himself alienated by a well in Midian.

His exile was caused by his own impetuous reactions.

Sometimes, we find ourselves by those wells because of things we've done. Maybe we intended the best, but a combination of our actions and other circumstances caused a disastrous outcome.

His exile was caused by others. (Acts 7:23-28)

Moses looked around to see that no one was watching before he killed the Egyptian, but the story got out. Who could have blabbed? The only other person who KNEW was the Hebrew worker he'd saved! The very person Moses had risked himself to save had disclosed the incident and put his life in jeopardy.

- **Acts 7:23-28 HCSB** "As he was approaching the age of 40, he decided to visit his brothers, the sons of Israel. (24) When he saw one of them being mistreated, he came to his rescue and avenged the oppressed man by striking down the Egyptian. (25) He assumed his brothers would understand that God would give them deliverance through him, but they did not understand. (26) The next day he showed up while they were fighting and tried to reconcile them peacefully, saying, 'Men, you are brothers. Why are you mistreating each other?' (27) "But the one who was mistreating his neighbor pushed him away, saying: **Who appointed you a ruler and a judge over us? (28) Do you want to kill me, the same way you killed the Egyptian yesterday?**

Sometimes, those we're trying to help are too busy saving their own skin to worry about ours.

Moses took up residence in the desert, married a nice girl, and became a shepherd. Forty years passed and the story resumed, revealing some vital truths that can help those of us who are seeking to begin again.

Moses' new beginning was initiated by God's call.

After four decades in the desert, Moses didn't go looking for God; God sought out Moses. The Lord isn't interested in our sitting by wells the rest of our life. Has tragedy disrupted your life? It's often after those events that God uses us the most.

Moses' new beginning was made possible through his own response.

Everything that was about to happen was dependent on Moses' willingness to act on God's call. At first he resisted. Notice his excuses.

Moses' excuses

I'm nobody (3:11)

I don't know enough (3:13)

I'm not a good speaker (4:10)

God's response

I'm somebody (3:12)

I know everything (3:14-15)

I've got help on the way (4:14-15)

Moses' new beginning faced barriers

Moses' new beginning faced barriers but God is a God of fresh starts. There are barriers to overcome but they can be overcome with God's help.

Age can be overcome. Think you're too old to change? Moses was 80 when he experienced God's call to begin again.



ILL: Winston Churchill had nearly reached the height of political power in Britain early in his career; by the age of 33 he was a cabinet minister and one of the nation's most popular speakers. Yet a series of events and unpopular positions caused Churchill to lose his political standing and become a subject of ridicule and rejection. By the early 1930's, he had been excluded from the seats of power. Churchill's prophetic warnings about Adolph Hitler were ignored by an English public that preferred to hear comforting words of peace.

When Britain was plunged into WWII, Churchill was already 65 years old, eligible to retire on a government pension. Yet that was the moment when the nation turned to him, and Churchill became the prime minister who inspired the British people to remain firm during the darkest days of the war.

Uncertainty can be overcome. All Moses' excuses reflected uncertainty about the future. In the face of uncertainty, God assures us that He'll not send us anywhere without going with us, nor call us to a challenge He doesn't equip us to meet.

Moses' new beginning required two things.

First, putting the past behind him. Things that bound you in the past must be released to move forward into God's future. Have you experienced broken dreams, broken relationships, broken promises that left you by a well in Midian? Consider the case of the Apostle Paul. He had been a persecutor of the church. He had participated in mass murder! He had had a direct hand in the death of the church's very first martyr! This is what Paul had to say:

- **Philippians 3:12-14 HCSB (12)** Not that I have already reached *the goal* or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. **(13)** Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead. **(14)** I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, if you are sitting by a Midian well due to your own mistakes, confess your sin, repent of it, do what you can to repair the damage and then trust Adonai's promise to forgive the sins of those who truly repent of their sins. By faith let it go and move on

Second, beginning again requires actually beginning! After all is said and done, you have to act. You have to keep on swinging.

Only you and God know the pain of your past. But He does know and He'll help you to overcome any barrier that stands in the way of a new beginning.

Now a new year is beginning soon, and it is filled with amazing potential. Take a look at a calendar for this coming year. Open it. Flip through the pages. Look at them; they're all blank. Nothing has happened yet on these pages. We haven't lived these days yet. We haven't made any mistakes or committed any sins. All the pages are still blank and we don't know what lies ahead.

I challenge you - make this coming year a new chapter in your life. Allow God to produce a new beginning through the power of His love and grace. Lay that calendar before the Lord and pray right now, asking God to bless every day of this coming year.