

Middle School & High School Sunday School Lesson-8 October 25, 2020

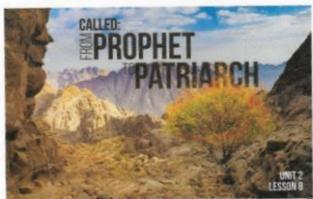
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST OF THE APOSTOLIC FAITH



Called: From Prophet to Patriarch

Bible Point

Just as Moses relied on God and God did great things through Moses' leadership, we will reach our full potential by allowing God's strength to flow through our weaknesses.



Scriptures

Exodus 3:13-14; 4:1-16; I Peter 2:9

Arguing with the Almighty

Read Exodus 3:13–14; 4:1–16.

- As we briefly shared in the last lesson, Moses was not as excited about his calling as we might assume. He was raised in Egypt. He knew the might and stubbornness of Pharaoh. He realized the odds were heavily stacked against him. And he was acutely aware of his own inadequacies.
- Moses expressed four specific areas of concern:
 1. Who am I supposed to say sent me?
 2. What if they do not believe me?
 3. Are You aware I am not a great public speaker?
 4. Are You sure there is not someone else You could send?



Arguing with the Almighty (cont.)



As we walk through God's responses, we can almost see God's frustration with His servant increase with each answer:

1. **To Moses' first concern**, God said, "Say . . . I AM hath sent me unto you." This is the first time in Scripture God gave Himself a name, so this is a significant moment. Still Moses was not settled.
2. **To Moses' second concern**, God said, "What is that in thine hand?" When Moses replied that he was holding a rod, God told him to cast it down. God worked a miraculous sign and turned it into a snake, but God's answer was even deeper than the sign. God was affirming that if Moses would make what he had available to God, God could do great things through what he had.
3. Moses was still not convinced. **To Moses' third concern**, we see a challenging reply from God. "Who hath made man's mouth?... have not I the LORD?" God was well aware of how Moses was constructed, but if Moses would rely on God, God could make even his weakness into strength.
4. **Finally, with Moses' fourth concern**, God became angry. God understood Moses' nervousness, but Moses' lack of faith was unacceptable. God revealed to Moses that he would not be alone, and that satisfied Moses. God revealed that He had already spoken to Aaron, who was on his way to meet Moses.

If Moses had simply started on his journey in faith, he would have discovered God's provision was already on the way.

A Character Change



The events at the burning bush were life changing for Moses. He had gone from being cherished to a castaway, from a castaway to being called, and from called to being chosen. This was not just a change in his role; a shift took place in Moses' spirit.

In the wilderness at the bush, Moses wrestled with God, and he lost. But looking at it from another angle, we see Moses wrestle with himself, and he won. Why? Herein lies the power of faith:

- Moses could have taken all God said and promised into consideration and replied, “**That is all wonderful, God, but I just cannot do it. I’m sorry.**” Moses’ lack of faith would have written him out of the narrative of the Bible, and quite possibly we would never have known his story.
- Moses could have said, “**God, You are right. I’ve got this.**” His faith in himself would have ultimately led to his failure; he would not have been able to deliver Israel on his own. Instead, Moses said, “**I am aware of my weaknesses, but if You are willing to work through them, I trust You to keep Your word.**” At this critical crossroads, Moses made the only correct decision he could: he chose to have faith in God.

Have
Faith
in
GOD

The Fruit of Faith



Because Moses placed his faith in God, opening himself up and allowing God to flow through him, Moses went on to see great victory.

Although we do not have time in this series to go into detail about the rest of Moses' story and Israel's Exodus, here are a few highlights of God working through Moses:

- God worked multiple miracles, including ten plagues that led to Pharaoh letting Israel go.
- God split the Red Sea, allowing Israel to escape Pharaoh's army and subsequently drowning the army.
- God defended Moses against the murmurings of the people.
- God led His people to the doorstep of their Promised Land.

At times Moses was afraid, intimidated, and confused, but he did not allow it to stop him from moving forward in faith. Because of this, Moses was far more than a prophet sharing with Israel the commandments of God; he was a patriarch of the faith. In fact, Hebrews 11, often called the Hall of Faith, dedicates more verses to celebrating Moses than any other person the chapter discusses (including Abraham, the father of the Jewish people).

Honest Evaluation



- If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit we all have shortcomings in our lives. We all have areas where we are not particularly skilled or talented, and, at times, those seem to get in the way of what God wants to do in us.
- When we face that reality, our natural temptation is to:
 - make excuses for ourselves, or
 - bury our inadequacies so others cannot see them.
- Neither option is appropriate. If we are only willing to do what we can do on our own, we will never know the satisfaction that comes from being genuinely used by God. **If we are prideful and try to hide our shortcomings, God cannot work through us, because He resists the proud.**
- Instead, we must rely on the fact that God's strength is demonstrated through our weakness, and we must make room for Him to move.

Admitting our Weaknesses



- First, we must acknowledge our weaknesses before God.
- We must admit we know those weaknesses are there and we need His strength to overcome them.
- We need to talk with our spiritual leadership, acknowledging what we feel called to do and identifying potential struggles.



Stepping Out In Faith



- Perhaps the most important step is simply stated, but that does not mean it is simply executed. We must take a step of faith and trust God to make up the difference for us.
- **God intentionally calls us to things we cannot accomplish on our own**, (partially because He does not want us to take credit for what He is doing through us and He craves relationship with us. God wants us to rely on Him so we can draw closer to Him.
- As we take a step of faith, seeing God move through us builds our confidence to take the next step. Each step we take in trusting God is a step deeper into relationship with Him.

Have
Faith
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Do Not Take The Credit

- Human nature is a funny thing. We know we are not capable of something, so we go to God to ask for help. When He helps us, we often try to take the credit for what He did through us.
- Only one deserves glory and that is God. Whether my accomplishments for Him are because of my own ability or I made room for Him to work, He deserves all the praise; I deserve none of it.



Discussion



1. Have you ever felt inadequate? If so, why?
2. Moses had a list of reasons why he felt he was not the best person to lead Israel out of Egypt, but God called Moses anyway. Why do you think God chose Moses?
3. Perhaps you have heard the saying, “God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.” Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
4. The Bible says God’s strength is perfected in our weakness (**II Corinthians 12:9**). How?





What do you feel are your strengths?

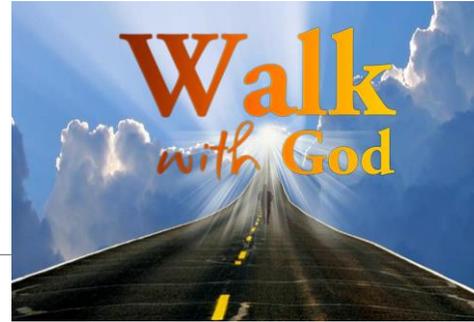
What do you feel are your weaknesses?

How do you think God wants to use your strengths?

How do you think God wants to use your weaknesses?

(Take some time to think about these questions. Write them down and pray over your notes. Allow God to speak to you.)

But God . . .



We all face difficulties when we are trying to pursue God's will in our lives. Sometimes we just need a word of encouragement.

Have you ever felt like you just weren't good enough for something? Maybe you didn't feel smart enough to sign up for a certain class in school, or you didn't feel popular enough to talk to a certain crowd. In moments like that, we may feel all alone. The truth, though, is everyone feels that way at some point in their lives. This is especially true when we are trying to accomplish something for Jesus. In fact, He may purposefully put us in situations where we feel inadequate, so we will learn to rely on Him. In those moments, remember the acronym **F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God)**. He will make up the difference when you step out in faith.

Just as Moses relied on God and God did great things through Moses' leadership, we will reach our full potential by allowing God's strength to flow through our weaknesses.