

Zoom Bible Study

Growing Closer to God

The life of Moses

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Trusting him with who we are.

God uses our quick, everyday decisions to build our trust in him.

"Without knowledge of self, there is no knowledge of God. Our wisdom, insofar as it ought to be deemed true and solid wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves."
(Calvin)

Moses - Knowing and doing the works of his calling.

Ephesians 2:8-10

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The essence of good works goes further than providing for the poor and needy, sharing the gospel, or praying for your friend; all kinds of callings (vocations) and their works *are good works*.

Vocations that <u>"make up society:"</u>	Vocations that <u>"maintain society:"</u>
▶ Bosses ▶ Workers ▶ Husbands ▶ Wives ▶ Parents ▶ Daughters ▶ Sons ▶ Friends ▶ Government leaders ▶ Citizens ▶ Preachers	▶ Farmers ▶ Administrators ▶ Merchants/vendors ▶ Teachers ▶ Doctors/nurses ▶ Grounds keepers ▶ Police officers ▶ Lawyers ▶ Architects ▶ Tailors ▶ Carpenters, etc.

1. Knowing and doing the works of his calling: Moses chooses what may have shocked others.

Hebrews 11:24-26

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

God sometimes leads us to make sacrifices for the sake of doing our assigned good works.

Acts 7:25

Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

Have you ever experienced a “secret instinct,” in doing something that others don’t understand or support?

2. Knowing and doing the works of his calling: Moses uses his resources efficiently.

Are you putting your passions and interests to use in your daily work, for God’s glory and the good of others around you?

Exodus 4:1-5

Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”² Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” “A staff,” he replied.³ The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.” Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.⁴ Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.⁵ “This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

What physical resource (or tool) did God instruct Moses to use here?

Psalms 23:1-4 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Exodus 11: 1-3

Now the Lord had said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.² Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold.”³ (The Lord made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh’s officials and by the people.)

Exodus 12:35-36

The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing.³⁶ The Lord had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

Numbers 27.16-17

“May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community¹⁷ to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord’s people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”

John 10:14-15

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

What thing has God given you that is useful in your vocation?

3. Knowing and doing the works of his calling: Moses shares the load.

Jethro's advice

Exodus 18:13-24

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. ¹⁴ When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" ¹⁵ Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. ¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions." ¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. ¹⁹ Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. ²⁰ Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave. ²¹ But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. ²² Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. ²³ If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." ²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

Before Jethro's advice, do you think Moses knew he needed help? Why or why not?

Aaron and the golden calf

Exodus 32:19-24

When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. ²¹ He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" ²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' ²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

Exodus 32:33-34 The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

When someone helps you with the works of your calling and they make a bad decision, do you pick up the role of judge and/or hold yourself responsible?

The building of the Temple Exodus 25-31

Exodus 31:1-11

Then the Lord said to Moses, ² "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, ⁵ to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. ⁶ Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you: ⁷ the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent— ⁸ the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense, ⁹ the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its stand— ¹⁰ and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests, ¹¹ and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place. They are to make them just as I commanded you."

Which vocations are mentioned here?

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your ^[a]faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, ^[b]do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Like Moses, can we do a better job as the church in recognizing and appreciating the diversity of God's people? The way he has created us and gifted us to do the works of our callings in secular and sacred settings is what structures and maintains the societies that we live in.