

Deuteronomy Chapter 33:1

“Moses the Man of God”

V: 1 “*And this is the blessing, where with Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death.*”

“*Moses the man of God...*”

- This phrase is used 60 times in the Bible, it is used for the first time here describing Moses.
- Bible study principal of “first mention” – first time a word or phrase is used in the Bible is usually definitive or sets a precedent for future use of that word or phrase

The last time:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- There is no higher title for a man; just to be a man of God, to be known as a man or woman of God!
-

- From V: 1 we understand that Moses, because he was a man of God, he was also a blessing to others.
- What are some of those things that we’ve seen in Moses’ life that helped to make him a “man of God”?
- There are many more things that could be mentioned but I’m going to focus on 5 things.

1. [Moses spent time with God](#), Moses spent personal one on one time with God and it showed.

Exodus 3:4-6 “⁴And when the Lord saw that he ^(Moses) turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, here am I. ⁵And He said, draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. ⁶Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”

- Moses responded to the call of God upon his heart and he ended up on holy ground in the presence of God who was in the burning bush. He heard God’s voice.

Later:

Exodus 19:3 “And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

Exodus 19:18-20 “¹⁸And Mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. ¹⁹And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. ²⁰And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the Lord called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.”

- On two different occasions Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on the mount with the Lord not needing food or water because he was in the presence of the Lord, and it showed.

Exodus 34:29-35 “²⁹And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. ³⁰And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. ³¹And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. ³²And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. ³³And till Moses had done speaking with them he put a veil on his face. ³⁴But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded. ³⁵And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.”

Exodus 33:11 “And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...”

- Moses understood the value of being in the presence of God.

Exodus 33:14-15 “¹⁴And He said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. ¹⁵And he said unto Him, if thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.”

- If you go, I'll go. If you don't go, then I won't go – I'm sticking with you.

It is the same principal that Jesus taught us:

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.”

- Jesus is describing a deep rooted connection that brings life and fruitfulness to the branches.

Moses describes the same thing:

Deuteronomy 30:20 “That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days...”

- Moses spent time with God:

2. Moses listened to God's Word, Moses was a man of the Word.

Paul wrote:

Romans 15:18 “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought / accomplished by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed.”

- When God has worked it out in me, then I can teach about it.

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

- Moses constantly encouraged and exhorted the people to take heed to God's word, to hearken unto the Lord.

Deuteronomy 30:10 “... thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

- The only way Moses could give these exhortations and encouragements, these commands to hearken was if he himself was already doing so – leading by example, Christ having already accomplished the same thing in Moses.

Deuteronomy 32:48 “And the Lord spake unto Moses that self same day, saying,”

- “And the Lord spake unto Moses...” 110X's

Exodus 33:11 “And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend...”

- Moses was constantly exposed to the voice of God, to the Word of God – and he responded in the right way – with obedience.
- If you look up those 110 instances of “... the Lord spake unto Moses...” if you follow the trail through the passage you'll find.

Exodus 4:18 “And Moses went...”

Exodus 7:20 “And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded;”

Exodus 8:30 “And Moses went out...”

Exodus 19:3 “And Moses went up...”

Exodus 19:14 “And Moses went down...”

Exodus 40:16 “Thus did Moses: according to all that the Lord commanded him, so did he.”

In this we see that Moses loved God!

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments:...”

- Moses was obedient, he followed God’s direction.

3. Moses adopted God’s perspective on people, and he loved them, and prayed for them.

4. Moses was a man of prayer.

Jesus taught us:

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

- On at least two occasions God seemed intent on wiping out the children of Israel:

Exodus 32 after the golden calf incident:

Exodus 32:11 “And Moses besought the Lord his God, and said, Lord,...”

Exodus 32:32 “Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”

Then again in:

Numbers 14 – when the children of Israel rebelled against God and refused to enter into the promised land. God was ready to wipe them out, but again Moses interceded and prayed to God.

- There were many occasions where Moses interceded on behalf of the people, even though the people weren’t always kind to him personally.
- Moses was like Jesus in the sense that he willing to as the shepherd to die for the sheep:

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

- We see this transformation take place where Moses truly see’s the children of Israel the way that God see’s them:

Deuteronomy 32:5 “... *King of Jeshurun*...” This is a poetic name for Israel and is first used in the previous chapter.

- Jeshurun: (H-3484). Yeshuruwn, yesh-oo-roon'; upright; Jeshurun, a symbolic name for Israel describing her ideal character. Jeshurun = “upright one”.
- Moses used this name for the first time in Chapter 32 and uses it twice again here in this chapter just before he dies. Why would Moses refer to Israel, Jacob as “Jeshurun”? Upright, righteous... especially when God has just revealed that they are going to turn away from God?
- The answer is because Moses is now seeing Israel the same way that God does, as upright. Not necessarily what they are at the moment, but taking the long view, the end view; Moses sees them as God does, through the shed blood of Jesus.

Paul explains it this way:

1 Corinthians 13:7 Love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

5. Moses endured the chastening of the Lord:

Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Hebrews 12:5-8 “⁵And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: ⁶For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. ⁷If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”

- Moses had been told by the Lord, reminded many times that he would not be allowed to enter into the promise land because he hadn't sanctified the Lord God before the people at the waters of Meribah.
- **Numbers chapter 20** - Moses had a bad day; he was frustrated with the people and he mis-represented God to the people – he didn't sanctify the Lord before them.
- Personal disappointment and failure, the consequence was not getting to enter the promise land.
- **Moses'** brother Aaron died that day, one of the bigger goals of his ministry slipped out of his hands never to return. – And he still served the Lord.

When it is mentioned for the last time in Deuteronomy 32 the very next thing we read is Deuteronomy chapter 33 where Moses is blessing the people and just loving them.

- Directly after that we see Moses' final act of obedience, he walks up to the top of Mt. Pisgah and not only see's the promised land from afar, but he surrenders his life to the Lord.
- Moses lived a life of surrender to the Lord:

Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Matthew 16:24-26 ²⁴... if any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it. ²⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- Moses who sat in Pharaoh's court and seemingly had everything understood this.

Hebrews 11:24-26 ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasure in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."

- Moses knew that a day of judgment would come.

John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 14:6 "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

- Moses was "a man of God" – he trusted in the Lord, he believed God, and he's in heaven.