

Midtown Messenger

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Issue 12

GAME CHANGERS MOSES: YIELDING TO GOD'S PLAN Ronnie Scherffius

There are few men who stir thoughts of admiration more than Moses. Moses willingly left Egyptian palaces and “refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter” (Heb. 11:24). Moses purposely disregarded the advantages and privileges of an Egyptian prince and chose rather “to suffer affliction with the people of God” (Heb. 11:25). When we think of Moses our minds conjure images of the burning bush (Ex. 3), the ten plagues (Ex. 7-12), the parting of the Red Sea (Ex. 14), and other momentous events in the history of Israel. The shadow of the man Moses is cast down throughout the history of humanity.

Still, Moses was a man and as a man he stumbled along the way. From the beginning he objected to God’s choosing him to lead Israel out of Egypt and offered excuse after excuse why another man would be better suited for the work (Ex. 3:11-4:14). When commanded to speak to the rock that water should come forth, Moses instead struck the rock in the sight of the people as he had previously (Num. 20:1-11; Ex. 17:1-7). It was this disobedience that caused God to refuse Moses entrance into the Promised Land (Num. 20:12; Dt. 34:1-6).

Another instance in the history of Moses where we actually see him becoming a great man of faith is when Moses yields to the will and purposes of God over his own. The Bible indicates that before God appeared to him in the burning bush, Moses was aware of God’s

purpose to use him to lead Israel out of Egyptian bondage. Moses not only forsook the family of Pharaoh to suffer with God’s people, but Moses did that “by faith” (Heb. 11:24-25). Since faith comes by hearing God’s word we know that Moses’ choice was based on the words of God. Furthermore, Luke records that Moses made some attempt to at least try to deliver Israel before fleeing into the land of Midian for safety:

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: **For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.**” (Acts 7:22-25)

Apparently aware that God would use him to deliver Israel, Moses acted on impulse and without God’s authority. In time (forty years to be exact!), Moses would come to learn God’s own plan to deliver Israel. And though at first he stubbornly resisted, Moses ultimately yielded to God’s plan and became a game changer in the history of God’s people.

How many today refuse to submit to God's plan of deliverance (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-38) and seek their own path! If one will simply look to the example of Moses and submit to God's plan he will become a game changer. He will change his life as well as his eternal destiny! Furthermore, he will have an effect on the lives of his family, and friends. Moreover, such a man will become even as Moses - a leader and deliverer of others by directing and guiding them from the bondage of sin. May we all seek to become game changers like Moses. May we all yield to God's will.

Dealing With Discouragement

By: Clay Bond

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. (Psalms 46:1)

Many of us know how it feels to be discouraged. We have experienced that feeling of disappointment, disheartenment, loss of hope, and lack of confidence. At times discouragement is so severe that we feel like we're drowning. Everything feels so hopeless and we see no way to escape.

The danger of discouragement is that if it is not dealt with properly, it leads to depression and despair. If we allow ourselves to continue in a state of despair, we are soon unable to function as healthy, happy individuals. Our thinking becomes irrational; we begin to make life altering, even life-ending choices. Judas is a sad example of one who so immersed himself in his depression that he ended up taking his own life (Matt. 27:5). Whether it is due to illness, material loss, emotional trials, or guilt over sin, discouraging circumstances are part of life. Job said, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). To lose your job and consequently lose everything you have worked for can be disheartening. Having your marriage end in divorce or experiencing the death of a loved one can be incredibly discouraging life changes. Facing the reality of the hurt your sin has caused and the separation it brings between you and God can cause feelings of deep despair (Is. 59:1-2).

Often we try to deal with life's disappointments on our own and become even more discouraged when our efforts fail. The Bible records many examples of real people who experienced the same life struggles we have and it also records how they dealt with discouragement. King David is a

prime example of one who faced discouragement from every source imaginable; loss of loved ones, failed relationships, betrayal, his own sin, David faced it all! Naturally, there were times that David was discouraged (Ps. 27:13-14), but the one thing David knew was who to turn to for help; "Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts" (Ps. 119:173). He believed that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1).

Our feelings of disappointment, disheartenment, depression and despair can only be remedied with God's help. When our heads are hanging low, when things are not going well, and when everything seems to be falling apart the Lord can lift up our head (Ps. 3:3). Jesus said,

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

If we are going to allow the Lord to help us through our hardships, we must be willing to come to Him in humble obedience and learn how "He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:8), how He, by the grace of God, tasted death for us (Heb. 2:9), and how He suffered for our sins, "the just for the unjust..." (1 Pet. 3:18). Like Jesus humbled Himself to obey the Father, we must be humble enough to hear and believe His gospel (Rom. 10:17; Mark 16:15-16), repent of our sin (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), confess that Jesus Christ is the son of God (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37) and be baptized into Christ (Gal.3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21). In Christ we have access to some amazing spiritual blessings like being added to His church (Acts 2:47), having our sins washed away (Acts 22:16), experiencing unity with other Christians (Eph. 4:1-6) and having fellowship with the Father and the Son (1 John 1:3).

The truth is, we will experience trouble and face discouragement as long as we live. There is no escape from the difficulties of life, but we can face all that we must face without losing heart or being overwhelmed by discouragement. We can turn to the Lord for help, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). As Christians we face the same problems and challenges as the rest of the world, but we have the comfort of not facing them alone (Heb. 13:5-6). We can do "all things through Christ which strengtheneth" us (Phil.4:13).

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of March 24, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Don Lynn
Assist: Sammy Scherffius, Kirk FitzSimmons, Brant Jacobs

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Ron White
P.M. Closing: Ronnie Scherffius

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Gospel Meeting

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Curtis Scherffius

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jamison

TODAY! MidTown church of Christ's Annual Spring Gospel Meeting begins today through March 27th, 2019. Our speaker will be Wade Webster. Theme is "Tell Us Plainly". Wade is an evangelist and missionary for the Bryan/College Station Church of Christ and will be speaking on Evangelism, Membership, Leadership, Baptism, the Church and the Cross. There will be a potluck luncheon and a 1pm afternoon service in lieu of the 5pm evening service. Flyers are in the hallway.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26:

Men's and Ladies' Tuesday class at 10 am on March 26th will be a combined class in the auditorium. Wade Webster will be speaking about Missions and there will be a potluck luncheon afterwards. All are invited to attend.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Wayne Martin, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 26: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
March 24-27: Spring gospel meeting with Wade Webster. Potluck luncheon after morning worship and a 1pm afternoon service.
April 14: Quarterly Men's Business Meeting

AREA EVENTS

Mar. 29-31: Gospel meeting @ Adams Street church of Christ. More info on the bulletin board in hallway.
Mar. 30: South Texas Youth Lectures @ Adams Street . More info on the bulletin board in hallway.
April 6: Ladies Day at Riverside church of Christ.
April 7-10: Portland church of Christ gospel meeting

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Imelda Sheeran (26); Sandra Daltry, Faye Henderson, Ann Pantel (29)

Please sign up to prepare communion, open & close the building, and host youth devotionals for 2019. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 17, 2019

Bible Class.....94
A.M. Worship.....127
P.M. Worship.....69
Wednesday Bible Study.....76

Offering \$3,785

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Zeal

Zealous works.....Titus 2:14
Col. 4:13; Gal. 4:18; Eccl. 9:10



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
(361) 573-0030
midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

