

The Family Time

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Hebrews 11:24 - By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Hebrews 11:25 - Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

In our last session, we took a look at the example of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: their parental training, their life choices, and their prayer life. We also took a look at their subsequent success. Today we will take a look at Moses. We begin with his early years.

Jochebed (*Moses' mother*) was a woman and a slave. Her lot in life was humble, her burden heavy. But through no other woman, save Mary of Nazareth, has the world received greater blessing. Knowing that her child must soon pass beyond her care, to the guardianship of those who knew not God, she the more earnestly endeavored to link his soul with heaven. She sought to implant in his heart love and loyalty to God. And faithfully was the work accomplished. **Those principles of truth that were the burden of his mother's teaching and the lesson of her life, no after influence could induce Moses to renounce.** {Ed 61.3}

Next we take a look at Moses' transfer to the palace of the Pharaohs

From the humble home in Goshen the son of Jochebed passed to the palace of the Pharaohs, to the Egyptian princess, by her to be welcomed as a loved and cherished son. In the schools of Egypt, Moses received the highest civil and military training. Of great personal attractions, noble in form and stature, of cultivated mind and princely bearing, and renowned as a military leader, he became the nation's pride. **The king of Egypt was also a member of the priesthood; and Moses, though refusing to participate in the heathen worship, was initiated into all the mysteries of the Egyptian religion. Egypt at this time being still the most powerful and most highly civilized of nations, Moses, as its prospective sovereign, was heir to the highest honors this world could bestow. But his was a nobler choice. For the honor of God and the deliverance of His downtrodden people, Moses sacrificed the honors of Egypt. Then, in a special sense, God undertook his training.** {Ed 62.1}

Even though Moses was given the needed education in his early years, and even though he remained faithful during his years in the palace of the Pharaohs, his preparation was not yet complete. The final arm of training needed to be completed.

Not yet was Moses prepared for his lifework. He had yet to learn the lesson of dependence upon divine power. He had mistaken God's purpose. **It was his hope to deliver Israel by force of arms. For this he risked all, and failed.** In defeat and disappointment he became a fugitive and exile in a strange land. {Ed 62.2}



Now God begins the final leg of training necessary. Note sometimes our training necessitates our separation from the very task we are being prepared to do!!

In the wilds of Midian, Moses spent forty years as a keeper of sheep. Apparently cut off forever from his life's mission, **he was receiving the discipline essential for its fulfillment**. Wisdom to govern an ignorant and undisciplined multitude must be gained through self-mastery. In the care of the sheep and the tender lambs he must obtain the experience that would make him a faithful, long-suffering shepherd to Israel. That he might become a representative of God, he must learn of Him. *{Ed 62.3}*

It was necessary for Moses to be cleansed of all the negative impressions and influences that he had absorbed while in Egypt;

The influences that had surrounded him in Egypt, the affection of his foster mother, his own position as the grandson of the king, the luxury and vice that allured in ten thousand forms, the refinement, the subtlety, and the mysticism of a false religion, had made an impression on his mind and character. In the stern simplicity of the wilderness all this disappeared. *{Ed 63.1}*

The power of the Holy Spirit combined with the book of nature was his teacher.

Amidst the solemn majesty of the mountain solitudes Moses was alone with God. Everywhere the Creator's name was written. Moses seemed to stand in His presence and to be overshadowed by His power. Here his self-sufficiency was swept away. In the presence of the Infinite One he realized how weak, how inefficient, how short-sighted, is man. *{Ed 63.2}*