



# EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

## BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 2:11-22

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**11** One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. **12** He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. **13** When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" **14** He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." **15** When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

**16** Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. **17** The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. **18** When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" **19** They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock." **20** He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." **21** And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. **22** She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 2:11-22

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In the face of injustice and cruelty what would you or I do with privilege, power, or position hanging in the balance? Moved by compassion would we stand for justice or shrink to the comforts of our position? Witnessing the needs of others, do we close our hearts to their plight, or do we move to provide for them? (1 John 3:17; James 4:17)

Compassion, not a strength of mine, is a characteristic representative of God's love for, and graciousness to His people, and also mankind. It is His compassion that prompts His love to act on our behalf. It was His compassion that called Moses from a burning bush (chapter 3) and sent him to deliver His people. It was the same compassion that sent His Son to deliver us all!

As you begin reading Exodus, you find this characteristic on display in many places. The first of which is from the midwives Shiphrah and Puah who "did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live," and *God* dealt well with them. The second is none other than Pharaoh's own daughter who, recognizing Moses as a Hebrew baby, "took pity on him" and he later "became her son," and later still, God's deliverer of his people.

Next, when Moses was "grown up", approximately 40 years old (Acts 7:23), he "went out to his people and *looked on their burdens*" (emphasis mine). This phrase carries more than just seeing what was being done to his people, but also has an emotional response attached to it (see Genesis 21:16). He had compassion for his brother and came to a point of decision. Would he act on this compassion or would he look the other way? The text tells us he defended and avenged his brother (verse 12; Acts 7:24). What the text does not specifically say, but certainly implies, is what was weighed in the balance. The word for "grown up" is not just communicating he grew in age or stature, but also means for a thing to be magnified; to grow in power. Moses was highly educated in Egyptian wisdom and strong in his deeds (Acts 7:22). Suffice it to say that he had something to lose. The writer of Hebrews explicitly states the motivation behind his decision (Hebrews 11:24-26). Moses chose, at 40 years of age, to no longer be identified with the oppressors of his people, and that cost him greatly.

When facing decisions regarding acting on what is right and what is wrong, we often weigh many things. Loss of friendships, money, position, notoriety, and often enough, simply time. All of which pale in the grand providence of God's purpose for our lives. We, I, too often live *in* and *for* the moment not considering tomorrow until, at least for the moment, it seems something may be lost for tomorrow. There are three instances in the second half of chapter 2 where we see Moses act on his compassion, and then see the results of that action. We see him unprepared for the consequences of this first act (verses 11, 12). We see a people unprepared and unwilling to be led by him through the



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second act (verses 13-14) and finally, he finds acceptance through the third (verses 17-22). It is from here that the Lord prepares Moses and his people for what will come *tomorrow*, though, tomorrow would be decades away (Acts 7:30).

Our decisions become points along our paths that prepare us and lead us to the calling that the Lord desires to place on our lives. For Moses, it was to lead God's people through the most significant event in human history, second only to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Compassion set Moses on a path to the deliverance of his people. Compassion sent Jesus for the salvation of the world. For you and me, someone will always be waiting on the other side of our obedience.

Our responses in the moment should only be weighed on the scales of eternity, for it is to that *end* that we are being weighed ourselves.

## Questions:

1. Read 1 John 4:7-21, 1 John 3:17-18, and James 4:17. What can these scriptures teach us about compassion?
2. Consider how you have received compassion *from* others. What things tend to hinder your compassion *for* others? Thank God for the compassion you have received and confess those things that hinder you from showing compassion and ask him now to remove them from you.