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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Note: For each of the following questions, refer to the **Sermon Summary** inside.

Observation—*What do I see?*

- ❶ What actions by Moses' parents mark them out as faithful believers and godly examples to Moses?
- ❷ How is Moses' life divided chronologically and what titles did Pastor Doug assign to each period? As a group, clear up any lack of clarity members may have about these phases in Moses' life.
- ❸ How is Moses' relationship with God described, and what four verbs in Hebrews 11:24–26 summarize his faith-driven decisions?
- ❹ What evidence is given for Moses' historical and spiritual greatness?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- ❺ What does Moses' refusal of Egypt represent?
- ❻ Why are the three life periods theologically meaningful, and how does the Midian period function spiritually?
- ❼ What is the significance of calling Moses a friend of God?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- ❽ Have you ever struggled during a season of obscurity or limitation? Tell us about it. How should Moses' forty years in Midian shape your response to such seasons?
- ❾ What attitude toward worldly identity does Moses' story encourage, and how should the reality of temptation affect you? To what degree are these attitudes found in your life?
- ❿ What does Moses' example teach you about the importance of your moral and spiritual choices? How are you doing in this area?
- ⓫ Moses exemplified a forward-looking hope in God's promised reward, and that shaped his present obedience and endurance. To what degree is this true of your perspective?

- ① They recognized his special quality, hid him from Pharaoh's edict, and entrusted him to God's providence by placing him where Pharaoh's daughter would find him.
- ② Three forty-year periods: (1) life in Egypt ("Preparation"), (2) years in Midian ("Isolation"), and (3) leadership of Israel during the Exodus and wilderness ("Validation").
- ③ He is called a man of God, a servant of God, and a friend of God (supported by citations from Deuteronomy, Hebrews, Exodus, and John). The four verbs in Hebrews 11:24–26 are: "considering", "choosing", "refusing", and "looking".
- ④ His prominence in Hebrews, his unique prophetic status, his intimate knowledge of God, powerful signs in Egypt, national leadership, and enduring strength at age 120 (Deuteronomy 34).
- ⑤ A deliberate rejection of temporary status and pleasure in favor of identification with God's people and eternal reward.
- ⑥ They show God's formative process: preparation through privilege, depth through obscurity, and public usefulness through tested maturity. The Midian period ("isolation") becomes a means of spiritual deepening, where dependence on God replaces self-sufficiency.
- ⑦ It highlights relational intimacy with God, not merely duty or status, and connects to the theme that God reveals Himself personally to His people.
- ⑧ We should see seasons of obscurity or limitation as opportunities for spiritual formation where God develops depth and dependence in us.
- ⑨ Refusing to be shaped by godless values and identifying openly with God's people. The reality of temptation should foster humility and vigilance, recognizing that no one is beyond moral failure.
- ⑩ Believers must reject the temptations of short-term, sinful gain and prioritize eternal values.
- ⑪ Be prepared with your own brief, concrete thoughts on this, but let group members go first.

Sermon Summary

There are three ways Scripture describes Moses' relationship with God: he was a man of God, a servant of God, and a friend of God. He is called the man of God (Deuteronomy 33:1; Ezra 3:2), a servant of God (Deuteronomy 34:5; Hebrews 3:5), and—like Abraham—a friend of God (Exodus 33:11). He served the Lord by representing Him before Pharaoh and by mediating God's Law to Israel. Scripture presents Moses as one of the greatest figures in both biblical and world history (Deuteronomy 34:7–12). Moses' life divides into three forty-year periods: forty years in Egypt as a member of Pharaoh's court, forty years in the desert of Midian, and a final forty years beginning with God's call to deliver Israel from slavery. These periods can be viewed as preparation, isolation, and validation.

The Period of Preparation (Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1–10)

Though Pharaoh ordered the death of Hebrew male infants (Exodus 1:22), Moses' parents acted “by faith” and hid him, unafraid of the king's command (Hebrews 11:23). God had long before promised Abraham that his descendants would be delivered from captivity (Genesis 15:13–16). Trusting that promise, his parents risked their lives to preserve him, showing how faith-filled parents can profoundly shape their family (Acts 7:20). They also had faith to see Moses' potential (Exodus 2:2). Faith enables parents to see worth and possibility beyond outward appearance and to trust God's purposes for their children. Looking at Moses with faith rather than fear proved decisive. By faith they also sought his protection, surrendering personal security and ambition. Placing him in God's hands was their safest course. Every parent, after faithful effort, must ultimately entrust a child to God's care.

Though raised in Egyptian culture, Moses refused to become Egyptian (Hebrews 11:24–26). He rejected Egypt's privileges to identify with God's purposes. “Consider” (v.26) conveys deliberate evaluation—he weighed temporary riches against eternal reward and chose God. He also consciously “chose” (v.25) to stand with God's people (Psalm 16:11), exchanging fleeting pleasure for lasting joy. Hebrews highlights three responses: Moses was “refusing” (v.24), “considering” (v.26), and “choosing” (v.25). He learned courage from his parents and spent his first forty years looking to God for a way to help his people, unaware it would take another forty years.

The Period of Isolation (Acts 7:23–29)

Egypt gave Moses formal education, but God formed his character in desert obscurity. Times of reflection are spiritually necessary; when we do not choose them, God may slow us through circumstances that leave us dependent on Him alone. In Midian, Moses lived in obscurity, doing work beneath his former status. Yet there he encountered God deeply and grew into His friend. In Egypt his spiritual life was broad but shallow; in the desert his roots went deep, strengthening his faith.

The Period of Validation (Hebrews 11:27–29)

In his final forty years, Moses led Israel. The maturity gained in Midian was tested and deepened in the wilderness. Israel's persistent rebellion led God to sentence the Exodus generation to die in the wilderness over the next forty years. Because of his own act of disobedience, Moses was barred from entering the Promised Land (Numbers 20). His failure warns that spiritual maturity does not eliminate temptation or the impulse to act presumptuously before God. Yet grace prevails. In Matthew 17:1–3, Moses appears with Jesus at the Transfiguration. He entered the Promised Land after all—though not as expected. God's grace was evident even amid discipline.

Moses' life displays the vision of faith (seeing the eternal), the values of faith (choosing what endures), and the victory of faith (accomplishing God's purposes).

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

Moses' life contained a period of "Preparation", of "Isolation", and of "Validation". Each day this week take some time studying the passages and observations below, seeing how they've applied to your own life.

Monday— Preparation (Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1–10) — How have you seen that God often shapes his servants through ordinary circumstances before public usefulness?

Tuesday— Preparation (Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 2:1–10) — How have you seen that faithful influences in early life can bear fruit far beyond what is visible at the time?

Wednesday— Isolation (Acts 7:23–29) — How have you seen that seasons of obscurity are often times of spiritual refinement rather than wasted years?

Thursday— Isolation (Acts 7:23–29) — How have you seen that God dismantles your self-reliance before entrusting you with greater responsibility?

Friday— Validation (Hebrews 11:27–29) — How have you seen that enduring faith is confirmed through obedience under pressure?

Saturday— Validation (Hebrews 11:27–29) — How have you seen that public usefulness flows from long, unseen formation?
