

Building Bridges

Ex. 3:1-4

“Rebuilding the Broken Bridges”

Ex. 3:1 Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he 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.

Our theme this year is building bridges.

The last couple of months, we have considered...

“Building a Bridge When You Are Not Sure Where You Are Going”

“Mothers – Building Bridges for a Lifetime”

“Crisscrossing the Bridge Within Us”

“Building the Bridge to Keep Building Bridges”

Memorial Day – *“Crossing the Bridges Built by Others”*

“Fathers – Building Bridges and a Legacy”

“Rebuilding the Broken Bridges”

“Building the Bridge of Liberty for Our Nation”

I. THE FORTY YEARS IN THE WORLD

Acts 7:22 And **Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians**, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

23 And **when he was full forty years old**, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

24 And seeing one *of them* suffer wrong, he defended *him*, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

25 For **he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.**

A. The Conception – in Egypt

Ex 2:1 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi.

2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that **he was a goodly child**, she hid him three months.

Heb. 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw **he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**

B. The Circumstances – in Egypt

Acts 7:22 And **Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians**, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

C. The Confusion – in Egypt

Acts 7:25 For **he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.**

Psa. 71:1 In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: **let me never be put to confusion.**

1 Cor. 14:33 For **God is not *the author of confusion***, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Jas. 3:16 For **where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.**

II. THE FORTY YEARS IN WONDER

Ex. 2:14 And he said, **Who made thee a prince and a judge over us?** intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

15 Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But **Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian:** and he sat down by a well.

A. The Obligation. Ex. 3:1a

Moses was obligated to watch someone else's flock.

Ex. 3:1a "Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian..."

B. The Obscurity, Ex. 3:1b

Moses labored in obscurity on the backside of the desert. He was doing nothing remarkable.

Ex. 3:1b “...and **he led the flock to the backside of the desert...**”

C. The Obliviousness, Ex. 3:1c

Moses was oblivious to God's plans.

Ex. 3:1c “...and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Horeb.”

Acts 7:30 And **when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.**

31 When Moses saw *it*, **he wondered** at the sight: and as he drew near to behold *it*, the voice of the Lord came unto him,

32 *Saying, I am* the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold. ...

D. The Opportunity, Acts 7:35

Moses was given another opportunity to do God's will.

Acts 7:35 **This Moses whom they refused**, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same **did God send** *to be* a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

The best way to *find* the will of God is to be *doing* the will of God, walking by faith.

“Begin to weave, and God will give you the thread.”

German proverb

III. THE FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

Acts 7:35 **This Moses whom they refused**, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? **the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer** by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

36 **He brought them out**, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and **in the wilderness forty years.**

A. The Preparation – 80 years

B. The Perseverance – 40 more years

Acts 7:36 **He brought them out**, after that he had shewed **wonders** and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and **in the wilderness forty years.**

C. The Performance

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

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

26 **Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt**: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

27 **By faith he forsook Egypt**, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Conclusion

- Moses, born in Egypt, had faithful parents.
- Moses was trained and successful as an Egyptian.
- Moses knew his calling but misunderstood the timing.
- Moses spent 40 years in Midian, getting Egypt out of his system.
- Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt.
- Moses walked by faith, through the wilderness, when others doubted God.
- Moses waited patiently until God chose to use him to build greater bridges than those in the past.
- The *burning bush* was a “before/after” experience, rebuilding a bridge for life.

Rom. 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.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**