

(Exodus) Exodus 3:9-14

by J. Vernon McGee

God trains His men in the desert to teach them their weakness and dependence on Him, and it is through our weakness that He can use us.

Duration: 6:26

Scripture: Exodus 3:13-17, 1 Kings 18:36-38, 2 Corinthians 12:10

Topics: "Divine Humility", "Godly Leadership"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the conversation between Moses and God regarding the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. The preacher highlights how Moses, who was once confident and arrogant, has now become humble and aware of his own weakness after spending forty years in the desert. The preacher emphasizes that God often trains his servants by humbling them and making them realize their dependence on Him. The preacher also mentions examples from the Bible, such as David and Elijah, who were also humbled before God used them mightily. The sermon concludes with God revealing His name to Moses as 'I am that I am.'

Transcript

Now listen, verse 9, Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me, and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppressed them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt. And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? Now do you notice what's happened to this man? Forty years before this, he was ready to deliver them, cocky as he could be, almost arrogant.

He went out, you remember. He slew an Egyptian and delivered one of his brethren, because he thought they'd understand. And he looked this way and that way, but he didn't look up.

He thought he could do it himself. Now God has trained him for 40 years on the backside of the desert, and he's learned how weak he really is. He's learned that he can't do it himself.

And now he's saying, Who am I? I can't do it. My friend, now God can use him. That's the way God has to train all of his men.

Have you ever noticed that he does that very thing? God had to take that boy who could slay a giant and put him out into the caves and dens of the earth, and he was hunted like a partridge. And he found out how weak he was. And then God could make him a king.

God took Elijah, the prophet, who could walk into the court of even Ahab and Jezebel and say, That's not going to rain, but according to my word. And he said, I'm not apt to say anything either. Soon he just went stalking out.

Now you'd think he was a pretty big, brave man, but really he wasn't. God put him out on the desert. That's where God trains his men.

And out there on that desert, why, it was a drought. And he put a little stone down in the brook there. And every day he measured it, and the brook was drying up.

And he could just look down at that brook and say, My life is no more than a dried-up brook. And that's what it is. And when that man found that out, and he also spent a little time looking down in an empty flower barrel, and he ate out of that.

He found out that he was nothing. And when he did, then God can use him to face the prophets of Baal and to bring fire down from heaven. Paul says, Paul had to learn it too.

When we are weak, then he says we're strong. That certainly is a paradox. But now that's what God has been doing for Moses.

Now Moses can be used. You know why? Because he thinks he can't do it. And now that he can't do it, and he knows he can't do it, God can do it through him.

One of the reasons that many of us are not used to God today is because we're too strong. Have you ever stopped to think about that? We're actually too strong for God to use us. And he can't use us.

When we are that, it's out of weakness we're made strong. And God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. Here's Moses and Paul the Apostle too.

And if today you are willing to be weak and recognize you're weak and will let God move through you, it's amazing what he can do through a weak vessel. Most of us, may I repeat it, are too strong for God to use us. Now verse 13, And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you, and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? And this was something that naturally was a question for Moses.

And I'm sure all of us would have had the same question. The problem now is, the children of Israel won't accept me at all. And God had told him back in verse 12, He said, Certainly I'll be with thee, and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee.

When thou hast brought forth the people, you shall serve God upon this mountain. But the question of Moses is, how am I going to get them to this mountain, you see? Now notice what God says here to this man. God said unto Moses, I am that I am.

And he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I am hath sent me unto thee. Now I think there's more wrapped up right here in this name than has ever been brought out of it, and I can't spend time here other than to say actually just a few very primary things concerning this name. It is that name

that is called the Tetragram.

We translate it as Jehovah. It's been translated as Yahweh. How do you pronounce it? Well, it became a sacred name, a holy name to the children of Israel to the extent that actually they did not know how to pronounce it because they didn't use it.

Do you say Jehovah or do you say Yahweh? Well, I candidly, I don't know what you say, and I haven't found anybody that can tell me what to say. And this is the name that is to be known. Now back in Genesis, He is the Creator.

He is Elohim. Then He called Himself the Mighty God. But here He is the self-existing One.

I am who I am. It could be translated like that. Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I am hath sent me unto you, the existing One.

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