



feeding . . . gathering . . . carrying . . . leading. (Isaiah 40:11)

August 15, 2013

Dear church family,

Thanks so much for joining us as we looked at the life of Moses. (You can read a shortened version of his life from Stephen's perspective in Acts 7). Lucas and I started off Sunday by introducing ourselves as Third Culture Kids (TCKs)- both of us spent significant portions of our childhood in cultures that were not our parents'. As we shared, TCKs can adapt quite easily among different cultures, however there is still a lingering feeling of not belonging and yearning for something more, a real home.

Similarly, Moses was a Third Culture Kid who didn't really belong anywhere. He grew up in a culture that he was not born into. When he was older, he sided with his birth culture but was then quickly rejected by it. Moses fled Egypt to live for another 40 years in Midian- where he knew no one and had to marry into the local culture to assimilate. We shared a bit of how we have experienced moments when we felt uprooted, when life was going just fine and suddenly one event changed everything. Similarly, after he fled into the desert, Moses probably felt that life wasn't working out how he imagined it would go.

Then he encounters God in the burning bush. While he wasn't seeking out God, God still had a plan for Moses. At the burning bush, Moses initially questions the call from God, questions his abilities and even questions **who** is doing the calling, despite the awe-inspiring circumstances. We noticed that rather than giving Moses a pep talk at this point, God simply responds immediately - "**I** will be with you". He expected Moses to depend fully on him. Amazingly, God chose a disobedient, washed up shepherd to lead a dramatic rescue of his chosen people!

How did this insecure shepherd become a stalwart icon of faith and leadership? As we heard a couple weeks ago, it was through his unparalleled position before God. The burning bush experience is when God met him in a personal way. Moses was forthright with God, asking him his name and later asking to show him His glory. Moses learned of the character of God through the years that followed- not only His power and holiness, but also His love and steadfastness, in stark contrast to the life of instability that Moses had experienced thus far.

We touched also on the fact that while Moses was in a leadership position of a large and potentially powerful nation and enjoyed unprecedented access to and relationship with the Almighty, he remained humble! Moses was growing in true humility through his relationship with God. Moses did not live for himself but for the sake of the future of his entire people.

We asked ourselves in looking at the life of Moses, why did God choose a TCK with such a disjointed early life to lead his people out of Egypt? Might it be that God was already calling him for a future purpose? Moses had the background and unique cultural adaptability to go to Pharaoh's court - he had been educated and brought up in those environs for the first 40 years of his life. In the next 40 years, he also needed, as we've seen, some sanding down of rough edges and capitulation of his pride to God. Practically, he gained skills about how to live in the desert, how to live amongst diverse cultures and peoples, and how to live as one without a home.

Hebrews 11:23-27 gives us a further glimpse into Moses and his character. Moses did not see the Promised Land as the end goal, despite how enticing it would have been. He was looking beyond that, putting his hope and trust in the

One who IS. Moses' discovered that "home" was not to be found on earth, and so was not attached to the entrapments of the here and now.

The Psalm traditionally attributed to Moses, Psalm 90, ends with this:

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!*

We don't always remember to ask this of God- for Him to establish the works of our hands to bring Him glory. Even when I don't know what's going on or what lies ahead, I can relax and trust that He does. He has an overarching purpose for my life even, if like Moses I feel uncertain how my life is "coming together" and often get discouraged.

The Exodus and subsequent journey to the Promised Land was a period of refinement for the Israelites and is a foreshadowing of our own redemption process through Jesus Christ. Jesus during his life on this earth was keenly aware that this earth was not his home and in obedience trusted God in what was beyond the here and now. As Christians, while we may at times start to feel at home or comfortable here, we are truly not citizens of this earth but Third Culture Kids - sojourners and transients - and should live motivated by our ultimate hope, looking beyond this life.

Blessings,
Lucas and Jen

<http://www.christour shepherd.org/pastlet.htm> (and follow links to download MP3 audio of sermon)