

Moses Wasn't Perfect

Lesson 01 of the series, "Imperfect ≠ Unusable"

1. God knew Moses' past and chose to use him anyway.

"Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action. One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man's defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian. Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't. The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peacemaker. 'Men,' he said, 'you are brothers. Why are you fighting each other?' But the man in the wrong pushed Moses aside. 'Who made you a ruler and judge over us?' he asked. 'Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?' When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian." Acts 7:22-29 (NLT)

Life Application: God chooses to use imperfect people to carry out his work.

"Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God." 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 (NLT)

2. God called Moses to serve Him decades later in the middle of nowhere.

"Forty years later, in the desert near Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight. As he went to take a closer look, the voice of the LORD called out to him, 'I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Moses shook with terror and did not dare to look. "Then the LORD said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground. I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groans and have come down to rescue them. Now go, for I am sending you back to Egypt.' So God sent back the same man his people had previously rejected when they demanded, 'Who made you a ruler and judge over us?' Through the angel who appeared to him in the burning bush, God sent Moses to be their ruler and savior."

Acts 7:30-35 (NLT)

Life Application: God knows where to find me.

"The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good." Proverbs 15:3 (NIV)

Life Application: We are never too old for God to use us.

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come." Psalm 71:18 (NIV)

3. God had things for Moses to do.

"The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." Exodus 3:9-10 (NLT)

Life Application: God has things for me to do.

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

4. God didn't want to hear Moses' excuses.

"But Moses protested to God, 'Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?'" Exodus 3:11 (NLT)

"But Moses protested again, 'What if they won't believe me or listen to me? What if they say, 'The LORD never appeared to you?'" Exodus 4:1 (NLT)

"But Moses pleaded with the LORD, 'O Lord, I'm not very good with words. I never have been, and I'm not now, even though you have spoken to me. I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.'" Exodus 4:10 (NLT)

"But Moses again pleaded, 'Lord, please! Send anyone else.'" Exodus 4:13 (NLT)

Life Application: God doesn't want to hear my excuses.

"Don't excuse yourself by saying, 'Look, we didn't know.' For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew." Proverbs 24:12 (NLT)

"Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it." James 4:17 (NLT)

5. God supplied everything Moses needed to fulfill his mission.

“God answered, ‘I will be with you... I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand forces him. So I will raise my hand and strike the Egyptians, performing all kinds of miracles among them. Then at last he will let you go.’” Exodus 3:12,19-20 (NLT)

“Then the LORD asked him, ‘What is that in your hand? A shepherd’s staff,’ Moses replied. ‘Throw it down on the ground,’ the LORD told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. Then the LORD told him, ‘Reach out and grab its tail.’ So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd’s staff in his hand. ‘Perform this sign,’ the LORD told him. ‘Then they will believe that the LORD, the God of their ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—really has appeared to you.’” Exodus 4:2-5 (NLT)

“Then the LORD became angry with Moses. ‘All right,’ he said. ‘What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well. And look! He is on his way to meet you now. He will be delighted to see you. Talk to him, and put the words in his mouth. I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do.’” Exodus 4:14-15 (NLT)

Life Application: God will supply everything we need to serve Him.

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19 (NLT)

Life Application: God wants us to depend upon Him.

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

John Schmidt • 07-09-17 • john@centeringlives.com

Connect Group Questions

1. What is the worst excuse you have ever heard? What is the worst excuse you have ever given?
2. Have you ever felt unqualified to be a Christian? If so, who is qualified?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. How do these verses make you feel?
4. Read Acts 7:20-35. Why, in your opinion, did God choose Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt?
5. What advice would you give someone who feels they may have missed an opportunity for ministry? Or someone who feels they are too old for God to use? (see Psalm 71:18)
6. Read Ephesians 2:10. Discuss as a group what assignments God has given you.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

“Never allow the thought — ‘I am of no use where I am’; because you certainly can be of no use where you are not.” Oswald Chambers

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.” Helen Keller

“When we pray for the Spirit's help ... we will simply fall down at the Lord's feet in our weakness. There we will find the victory and power that comes from His love.” Andrew Murray