

Bible Study Series

JOURNEY TO GOD'S
HEART



This series we're looking at the lives of three men who made a journey to God's heart – David, Moses and Abraham.

God said David was a man after His heart, Moses and Abraham he called His friends. What was it about these men that set them apart? What examples have they left us to follow? How do we learn from their mistakes, so we don't make the same ones?

I pray this study blesses you and positively impacts every aspect of your life.



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DAVID

THE UNLIKELY KING



Day 1

The Unlikely King

We're introduced to David in 1 Samuel 16. The context is that God had rejected King Saul because of his disobedience and unrepentant heart. God had replaced Saul (even though he was still physically on the throne) and sent the prophet Samuel to Jesse's house to anoint the man He had selected to be the next king.

When Samuel got to Jesse's home, he was sure Eliab - the first son - was the one God had chosen based on his physical appearance.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'" 1 Samuel 16:7

I believe this was a lesson for Samuel as well, not to be moved by the externals. Eliab had the physical bearing of a king, but he wasn't God's choice. In fact God said He had rejected Eliab.

Anyone trying to make a journey with God must understand the way He thinks. God is not moved by what's on the outside, but the state of our hearts. So don't be fooled into thinking that you need to 'package' yourself for God to accept you.

David's father clearly didn't think he was the type that would be anointed so he hadn't bothered to send for him earlier. But God's ways are not our ways. There was something that God had seen in David - the heart of a shepherd. God was looking for someone who would take care of Israel as a shepherd tends his sheep and He saw that in David.

Reflect: We should not take our God given assignments for granted. God had rejected Saul even though it still took David a few years to mature into the role of King. Secondly, always remember that God is more concerned about the state of our heart than anything else.

Day 2

Training Ground

After being anointed by Samuel, David went back to shepherding his father's flock, but God had already orchestrated a plan to bring him to prominence.

We read in 1 Samuel 17 how David's father sent him to take provisions to his brothers on the battlefield. While there he encountered Goliath and the famous victory over the giant took place. God turned a simple grocery errand to a victory for Israel.

Why did God choose to use David? After all Goliath had been taunting the soldiers for 40 days. David had a perspective the other experienced soldiers didn't have. They saw Goliath as a giant ready and able to crush them, but David saw someone defying his God and called on the support of that God to deal with this enemy (1 Samuel 17:45-48).

David's strategy was different. He didn't even use the armour King Saul gave him because he knew God would handle this matter differently. He put the battle entirely in God's hands and took a leap of faith. And God honoured him.

David could have easily been killed by Goliath, but he trusted in the God that had helped him win earlier battles in the wilderness to deliver him (1 Samuel 17:34-37).

God always takes us through a process. He doesn't send us into battle unprepared and will always take us through training to prepare us for the next level. If David had not seen God move on his behalf in the wilderness, he may not have been as confident in God's ability to deliver him from Goliath.

God had a plan to equip David to be the type of king He wanted so he had to go through a series of training processes which included being trained as a warrior. The warrior training started in the wilderness with his father's sheep, then Goliath, then the numerous military battles he fought before he was finally crowned king over Judah and then all of Israel.

Reflect: There's no instant success with God. He knows where he's taking you, so He equips you with the training you need to succeed in the position you're being prepared for. If you'll let him...

Day 3

On the run

David was nothing but loyal to Saul, served in his army and became his son-in-law, but that did not stop Saul from making several attempts to kill David, causing him to go on the run. Why did Saul do all this to David?

We see in 1 Samuel 18: 12 that “Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had departed from Saul.” Saul knew that God was with David and because of that he was both jealous and fearful of him and so became quite irrational in his actions toward David. Jealous because the people praised him for his accomplishments which hurt his pride. Fearful because he knew God would make David king over Israel.

God’s hand upon a person’s life may lead to others being jealous and fearful of that person, making them do hurtful things to the person they’re jealous of: look at what happened to Joseph when his brothers sold him off as a slave (Genesis 37:18-36).

The real issue isn’t what the jealous/fearful people are doing, it’s how you choose to respond to them. God looks at the heart and is interested in seeing how we respond to such situations. Notice that through all the many terrible things Saul did to David, at no point did David try to retaliate. He certainly could have done so easily given his access to the military, favour with Saul’s family and love that the people of Israel had for him.

Even when he had the chance to kill Saul and stop being an outlaw, David refused to do so because he would not raise his hand against the Lord’s anointed (1 Samuel 24:19-20). David understood something that Saul did not: David’s dependence was on God and not on himself, so his focus was on pleasing God. Saul had stopped depending on God, so anyone that was a perceived threat had to be eliminated.

Reflect: You will definitely encounter people who perceive you as a threat because God is with you – in the office, at home, school, in your social life, etc. How do you handle such people? Do you respond based on your own logic, intellect, political/social clout, or do you like David put it in God’s hands and wait for and obey divine instructions?

Day 4

Small Beginnings

David went from being a single outlaw on the run to being a commander of 400 men. These were men who were discontent, indebted, distressed and yet David took them in (1 Samuel 22). Not a pretty picture to begin with, but remember, God had a plan. These men later became the mighty men in Israel's army, leading troops to win many battles for their land (2 Samuel 23:8–38).

God used these men to teach David about leadership by giving him raw materials to shape into something of value. Many times when God opens a door of opportunity for us it doesn't look like something we should get excited about. In fact, it often looks more like a whole lot of work. However, through it all, God is building us up, working to perfect what's on the inside.

David learned how to encourage, how to admonish, how to give a balanced judgement on issues, how to get the best out of his people and most importantly how to seek God for the strategy for every situation.

Only with God's help could he have transformed this rag tag bunch to the impressive men they became. There's a valuable lesson here for us. The end of a matter is better than the beginning, and a patient spirit is better than a proud one (Ecclesiastes 7:8).

Reflect: We don't often get the finished product we want immediately. What 'raw materials' has God placed in your hands, waiting for you to seek Him for the strategy and the capacity to turn it into something of lasting value?

Day 5

Choosing to Respond

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Day 6

Fulfilment

“Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel.” 2 Samuel 5:3

When David was first anointed by Samuel as a young boy, he was brought from the wilderness where he was faithfully tending his father’s sheep. That began David’s journey to the throne as king over Israel. The journey certainly wasn’t a smooth one, quite the opposite with much harassment, many difficulties and great discomfort. Even after the death of his main persecutor King Saul, Saul’s family still waged war with David for a long time (2 Samuel 3:1).

Then he was anointed king over the tribe of Judah. At the point when David was anointed king over all Israel, all the elders acknowledged that God was indeed at work in David’s life and they were unanimous in anointing him king. What had taken place earlier in the spiritual was now manifesting decades later in the natural.

“So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.” (2 Samuel 5:12). At this point David wasn’t in any doubt about who was in charge. God’s training process had produced in David the understanding that it was only God that could have preserved him through all he went through and so he was yielded to God and to how God wanted him to reign over Israel.

Sometimes we don’t move through God’s training process because we resist Him and try to do things our own way. So, the fulfilment of the promise is delayed, not because God doesn’t want to bless us, but because He knows what must be produced in us to be able to manage what He’s bringing us into.

In so far as God has said it, it will surely come to pass. That’s why we’re told in Habakkuk 2:3 that the vision is for an anointed time and it will be fulfilled. However, we have a role to play in the fulfilment.

Prayer: May we be yielded to God’s plan for our lives and His methods for bringing those plans to reality. May we not delay what God wants to do either through our disobedience, laziness or ignorance.

Day 7

Second Chances

David made a mistake which led to a series of other mistakes. At the time he was supposed to be on the war fields with his troops, he chose to stay in Jerusalem and while at home, he came across Bathsheba having her bath. Rather than look away, he engaged someone to bring her to him, then he slept with her and she became pregnant. He then chose to try and pin the pregnancy on Bathsheba's husband Uriah. When this failed, David had Uriah killed by having him put in a dangerous position on the war front. Having done this, he then had Bathsheba move into his home as his wife. (2 Samuel 11)

Notice how it was one error which left unchecked, spiralled out of control and led to a series of other errors. From being someone with a clear heart, David became an adulterer and murderer. The Bible notes clearly that God wasn't happy with him (2 Samuel 11:27) and the far-reaching consequence of his action became clear when he was told, 'Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.' (2 Samuel 12:10).

What David did had implications not just for him, Bathseba and the child, but for the rest of David's household and Israel as a whole. Notice that it wasn't until David was confronted that he repented of his sins, which he had previously justified to himself. David wrote Psalm 51 after he had been confronted, as a plea for mercy and God's forgiveness for his sins and he was forgiven. God gave David a second chance through Solomon and David's throne was established as promised. But his family paid a heavy price for his sin.

Reflect: Are you dabbling in sin? Don't think it's too small to repent of. Ask God for mercy and forgiveness and to give you the grace to stop and walk away from whatever it is. As David prayed so should we: 'Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.' Psalm 51:10

Day 8

Consequences

David's life was very dramatic. Wars with giants, being made an outlaw, the fulfilment of the promise and the sin that wrecked his family.

There was a running theme through David's life: he always inquired of the Lord and was quick to repent when he got things wrong. David wasn't a perfect man by any stretch of the imagination, but he understood a principle which was to seek God and never allow himself to be far from Him.

We see this clearly in the book of Psalms, which David wrote almost half of. Going through the psalms we see David's open and honest response to what he was going through at the time. And that's how God wants us to be with him, open and honest.

However, this doesn't exempt us from having to face the consequences of our actions. David paid heavily for his sin concerning Bathsheba and Uriah. There was rape, nursery, treason all within his own children.

Reflect: God is just and doesn't play favourites, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:7

Day 9

Good, not God

David in 2 Samuel 7 planned to build a temple for the ark of God. He discussed this with Nathan the prophet who also encouraged him, 'Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." ' (2 Samuel 7:3).

But God had something different in mind. 'When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ' (2 Samuel 7:12-13)

Even though what David wanted to do seemed 'good' God had already decided that David would not be the one to build him the temple (2 Samuel 7:4-17).

How often do we run with an idea that seems good to us and those around us (remember Nathan also bought into the idea) without checking if it's actually what God wants?

It's very easy to distinguish between good and bad, but not so easy to distinguish between 'good' and God. By this I mean that when something is wrong, we know not to do it (lie, cheat, steal, etc.), but there is often a very fine line between good things we want to do and what God has in mind for us.

It's so important that we stay connected to God to hear from Him what His thoughts are on our plans, rather than just presenting our plans to God no matter how positive it appears.

Psalm 127:1a guides us on this: "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it..." When God is involved in something, He takes full responsibility for it. From creation to maintenance to generational transfers, God has it all worked out. Your job will be to just work the plan you have been given.

Reflect: We need to intentionally build a close relationship with the Holy Spirit so we can be led by him. God wants us to work, but if we're not working according to His plans, our labours will be in vain.

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ABRAHAM

THE FATHER OF NATIONS



Day 1

Come out from where you are

Abraham was called out of Haran to go where God would show him (Genesis 12:1). We're told that the Lord 'had called' Abraham, which means this was something that had happened earlier. Now we don't know when exactly God called Abraham and how long it took him to obey. But God's instructions were clear: "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

At this point Abraham (still called Abram) was the most senior son, and leaving his country would mean leaving his inheritance, and his leadership position in his household. He had most likely created a social and economic system for himself around his people, so leaving would also mean some form of isolation from all he was used to. Essentially God disconnected him from his past. At age 75 when he heeded the call, there would have been quite a lot to disconnect from. But he obeyed God.

One of the things we can learn from this is that age is not a barrier for God. Second is that with great promises often comes a great price. What could have spurred Abram to make this move which couldn't have appeared sensible to anyone watching on the side-lines?

God made Abram a seven-fold promise with the call:

1. I will make you into a great nation
2. I will bless you
3. I will make your name great
4. You shall be a blessing
5. I will bless those who bless you
6. I will curse those who curse you
7. In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

Heavy promises! For God to fulfil His promise, Abram couldn't remain where he was as his environment was notorious for being highly idolatrous and it wasn't the land God wanted Abram's descendants to inherit.

Reflect: The price reflects the weight of the promises. God may need to call you out to separate you from anything that will affect the fulfilment of the promises. It may appear difficult, but it will definitely be worth it. It's up to you to decide whether to heed the call or not.

Day 2

Lot went with him

From Genesis 12 we see that when Abram responded to God's call and took his household on the journey, Lot went with him. It's not clear whether Abram asked Lot to come with him out of a sense of responsibility since Lot's father – his brother – had died, or if Lot just decided to go with him as they had always travelled together.

Lot's presence in Abram's life led to a few challenges (we will talk about these in subsequent days). By the time they had moved to the Negev, there wasn't enough space to contain both Abram and Lot's properties as they were both quite wealthy. Abram showed great unselfishness by asking Lot to choose where he'd like to move to, offering to go in the opposite direction so there wouldn't be any quarrel.

Lot chose the land to the east that looked more beautiful (Genesis 13:10) and they separated with Abram staying in Canaan. God did something interesting after Lot left. He made a declaration to Abram, giving him and his descendants all the land he could see from north to south, east to west (Genesis 13:14-17). Notice two critical things:

- The declaration came After Lot had separated from Abram
- The land God gave Abram included the parts Lot had chosen

Regardless of the plans of man, it is the Lord's counsel that stands forever (Psalm 33:11).

Lot was blessed by his association with Abram, but Abram was the carrier of the blessing (Genesis 12:2-3). Abram had built an altar to the Lord when he first set out (Genesis 12:7-8) and he called upon God again after leaving Egypt (Genesis 13:4) and several times through his journeys. But there's no record of Lot doing the same. Lot was happy to partake of the blessings but did not want to pay the price. Rather he settled in Sodom which was notorious for wickedness and sinfulness (Genesis 13:13).

God knew there had to be a separation from Lot before Abram could come into the fullness of all God had for him.

Reflect: Sometimes we take some things we're meant to leave behind on our journey to get closer to God – relationships, mindsets, habits, etc. Until there's a total separation from these things, we won't experience the fullness of what God has planned for us.

Day 3

Brought out to enter in

“I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it.” (Genesis 15:7)

Recall in Genesis 12:4 that Abram departed from Haran? But in the verse above, we’re told that God had brought him out from Ur of the Chaldeans. This is made clearer to us in Genesis 11:31. Ur of the Chaldeans was Abram’s native land, and his father Terah had already been inspired by God to leave the land and go to Canaan – the land God promised to Abram. However, rather than go straight to Canaan, Terah, Abram, Sarai (later called Sarah) and Lot dwelled in Haran where Terah died.

It was after Terah’s death that Abram began his journey out of Haran to Canaan, but still didn’t settle there until after he and Lot separated. Following the separation and the promise made, God also told Abram specifically what would happen – how his descendants would be slaves in a strange land for 400 years, how that land would be judged and how they would return to Canaan with great possession (Genesis 15:12-16). The Lord promised that Abram’s descendants would be given land that currently housed 10 nations (Genesis 15:18-20).

Abram just heard the promise then, but it had been God’s plan from the start. God’s ways are definitely not our ways. God knew where he was taking Abram, and not him alone, but his descendants yet unborn. God started a plan 400 years before the generation that would eventually possess the land was even born! How awesome is that!

We need to learn to trust God. Whatever He has in mind may be beneficial to us in our lifetime but will certainly have far reaching generational impact as well. It appears difficult for us to comprehend as we can’t see that far into the future. That’s why it was credited to Abram as righteousness (right-standing with God) when he acted in faith, believing what God told him (Genesis 15:6). Imagine how Abram may have short circuited God’s plan for him and future generations had he not believed.

Reflect: It’s impossible to please God or walk according to His plan without faith (Hebrews 11:6). God’s plans for us are for good, to give us hope and a future (paraphrasing Jeremiah 29:11).

Day 4

Assumptions

God had made Abram a promise that he would have a child, through whom his descendants would inherit the land of Canaan. “Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”” Genesis 15:4-5 NIV

But after living in Canaan for 10 years, Sarai and Abram decided to create their own plan. Sarai’s maid Hagar would have a child for Abram and Sarai would raise the child - seemed like a good plan. Except for one thing. Neither Abram nor Sarai took the time to confirm from God if this was His plan, after all He’s the one that promised Abram he would have an heir.

They went ahead with their plan and the unplanned happened: Hagar now had the upper hand over her mistress, she’d achieved something her mistress hadn’t and began to disrespect her. Sarai in her anger retaliated and began mistreating Hagar, causing Hagar to run away. Without Hagar, there wouldn’t be any baby and the entire plan would have been a waste.

When we choose our own paths instead of clarifying what God wants, we open ourselves up to many issues. When God has a plan, he prepares the grace, the protection, the resources and the favour needed to execute the plan, because it’s His plan. When we create our own plans, without clarifying from God, then we’re responsible for putting in all the effort required to make the plan work.

Reflect: Don’t assume you know better than God. He wants us to work, but He wants the work to be according to His plan for our own good. “Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” Matthew 11:29-30

Day 5

Value

Abram became father to Ishmael at 86 as a result of Sarai's plan which led to the birth of Ishmael (Genesis 16:16). The Bible records that after this, God didn't appear to Abram for 13 years and God's first words to Abram after this long absence were words of admonishment, with God confirming that He would only fulfil the covenant if Abram walked in the ways God determined (Genesis 17:1-2).

We're told that Abram fell facedown – no arguments, he knew he'd veered off God's plan and he repented. It was after this act of repentance that God not only re-affirmed His covenant, but also gave Abram and his wife a new identity – that's when they became Abraham and Sarah. That's when God also told Abraham clearly when his son would be born, what to name him and what God intended to do for him –

The state of one's heart is very important to God and is a critical factor in our being close to Him. Abraham didn't try to justify his actions regarding Ishmael or argue regarding the promise of Isaac – as impossible as it all sounded given Abraham and Sarah's advanced age. With the years of silence he'd experienced, he knew what it was like to be separated from having a close fellowship with God and clearly he didn't want that to happen again.

Once God had given Abraham the instructions on being circumcised, we're told that he made sure he and his entire male household followed the instructions that same day. Abraham learned he could not afford to take his relationship with God for granted.

Question: What value do you place on your relationship with God? Is it based on what you can get from Him? Or do you value and make an effort to have a personal relationship with God?

Day 6

Lot's Hesitation

Most of us are familiar with the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and how the city was destroyed because of the level of wickedness there (Genesis 19). But before the destruction of the city, God had alerted Abraham about what was going to happen. Abraham then began an interesting series of negotiations with God, because he knew God wouldn't destroy the righteous with the wicked. Abraham already knew Lot had moved into the city and so his negotiations settled on how many people he believed Lot would have influenced in his household -10 (Genesis 18:16-33).

Sodom was indeed filled with wicked people but today our focus is on Lot. We don't know how long he had lived there, but he had attained a position of influence as he sat at the city gates with other elders. Interestingly in spite of Lot's position he wasn't able to influence up to the 10 people Abraham had negotiated (not even his sons-in-law) to righteousness so Sodom would be destroyed. Lot clearly knew destruction was coming, yet when it was time to escape he hesitated and had to be forced to leave (Genesis 19:16). Why?

We know Lot was quite wealthy before he relocated to Sodom and so he must have looked at all he was leaving behind. He probably wondered where and how he would start all over again. Forgetting that the Lord who made it possible for him to have the wealth was the same one orchestrating his rescue. And also forgetting that his wealth would be useless to him if he was dead.

There's nothing wrong with having wealth - great or small - but we have to be careful not be consumed by it. We are stewards of whatever resources God gives us - time, money, skills, influence, etc.- and all are to be used for His glory.

We open the door for confusion and misuse when we forget the reason, we have been given the resources and that ultimately, we will have to give an account of what we have done with all we've been given.

Prayer: Lord make me a faithful steward of all the resources you've blessed me with.

Day 7

Promise Kept

'And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. ' Genesis 21:1-2

God promised Abraham when he was 75 years old that He would make him a great nation (Genesis 12:2). Little did Abraham know that 25 years would pass from when the promise was made to when it would be fulfilled, but Abraham believed God's promise. Although at some point Abraham tried to work things out his own way, God reminded Abraham that the blessing He had in mind would come through the child to be born by Sarah (Genesis 17:15).

At this point, the fulfilment of that promise seemed so far-fetched that Abraham and Sarah laughed at the thought of bearing a child in their nineties (Genesis 17:17, 18:12). But God isn't bound by age, time or any circumstances

God is faithful to keep His promises and has a plan He is working with, so the fulfilment of the promise will come according to His plan. Let's take a second look at Genesis 12:2, "For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, **AT THE SET TIME** of which God had spoken to him" (emphasis mine). Which means God had a specific time in mind for when Isaac would be born, and no circumstance would change that. Many times, we don't factor God's timing in when we ask for blessings or claim promises. So when there seems to be a delay in fulfilling the promise, we think God has failed us.

Imagine if Abraham knew at 75 that he would have to wait until he was 100 for Isaac to be born, would he have done some things differently? Perhaps. The same goes for us, if we knew exactly when we would get the answers we've been looking for we may act differently. But we must come to a place where we trust God, regardless of whether He gives us timelines or not. We must believe that God is indeed faithful to do what He has said He will do.

Reflect: Trust is critical to the fulfilment of the promise – do you trust God regardless of what you see or hear around you?

Day 8

The Test

In Genesis 22 God tested Abraham with the one thing he valued most: his child of promise. Let's look at two critical things: the reason for the test and Abraham's response.

"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"" Genesis 15:1-2

We see here that God promised Himself to Abraham, but at that time Abraham was more interested (legitimately so) in having a child. In his mind, Abraham had linked God's blessings to the thing he wanted most: his own son. God made Abraham a promise which he kept and Isaac was born (Genesis 21:2). Now God tested Abraham to see where his heart really was: was it in getting gifts from God or in having a relationship with God?

Abraham had a choice, he could've said no and kept on living his already wealthy life with his wife and son. But he realised there was more to life than these and having experienced distance from God for about 13 years before (Genesis 17:1) it was clearly something he didn't want to go through again. God's intention was never to kill Isaac, but to test the state of Abraham's heart. Imagine if you had a friend who only ever asked you for things. Even if you were more than able to provide those things, at some point in time you will ask yourself if this person only wants a relationship with you because of what you can provide. God was essentially saying: "Is giving you what you want the extent of our relationship?"

Abraham's response showed that wasn't the case. He obeyed immediately, took Isaac and his servants on the minimum 3 day journey to where God asked him to go. The journey itself was part of the test because at any point in time Abraham could've turned back. But he didn't (Genesis 22:3-10).

At the final stage of the test when Abraham was about to strike Isaac God stopped him. "And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."” Genesis 22:12 . Remember God's intention was never to have Isaac dead, but to test the state of Abraham's heart. Once this test was passed, God reaffirmed His blessings to Abraham linking it to his obedience. "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."” Genesis 22:18

Question: How often do you pass God's obedience tests? It may not be as great as giving up a child, it could be spend less time on certain things and more on others. Whatever it is, don't short-change yourself by being disobedient.

Day 9

Perspective

“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.” Genesis 24:1

“This is the sum of the years of Abraham’s life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.” Genesis 25:7

When Abraham began his journey as a tent dweller he was 75 years old and childless. During the journey there were many challenges, errors, moments of doubt and tests. Yet through it all Abraham believed God.

We’re told that by the time he reached old age, the Lord had blessed him in all things - he was closer in his relationship with God, his previously barren wife had given birth to the child he was promised, he lived in peace with the residents of neighbouring towns, he had good health, sound mind and was also materially wealthy.

But he didn’t know he would have any of these when he started on what must have seemed an illogical journey. Difficult as it may be, we must try to remember that God functions from the perspective of eternity - God sees the end from the beginning and deals with us based on that perspective (Isa 46:10).

We only see now, so when He asks us to take a step of faith, we may struggle with obedience and consistency if we don’t have this understanding. Whatever He asks of us is for our good from the perspective of eternity - even if it doesn’t feel or look good right now. That’s where trust comes in.

But it’s difficult to trust someone you don’t know isn’t it? We’re the ones who determine how close we get to God. We can leave things at the transactional level (give me, bless me) or we can invest in having a relationship with Him, get to know Him and His plans for us.

Abraham is an example for us to follow. An old man from a pagan nation who decided to make the journey to become close to God and in the end received the reward God promised him.

Reflect: Can you make a conscious effort to evaluate every decision you make in the context of eternity? Ask yourself: how will this draw me closer to God?

Day 10

Succession

Abraham understood that God's promise didn't rest with him alone so he trained Isaac in God's way. Beyond Isaac, Abraham wanted Isaac's descendants to also continue in God's ways. The Canaanites were idol worshippers and were not going to follow God's agenda, so Abraham made his servant swear that he wouldn't get Isaac a wife from Canaan.

Abraham understood the generational implications of associations and relationships, especially marriage. He wasn't just preparing his son, he was preparing generations he wouldn't even meet (Genesis 24:2-4).

Abraham also knew the implications of Isaac's location as it related to God's promise so he knew Isaac shouldn't go back to where he, Abraham came from, "But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there." Genesis 24:6. He knew the land God had promised to give Isaac and his descendants, so he wasn't going to risk losing it.

God functions from the perspective of eternity so His plans are always generational. How deliberate are we in putting succession plans in place in our families? How are we preparing the next generation (children, siblings, people we mentor, relations, etc.) to walk with God's principles and values? It won't happen automatically, there must be a deliberate plan and action steps taken to achieve this.

God said this of Abraham: "For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just..."
Genesis 18:19a

Question: Do we consciously guide those around us to keep the way of the Lord? If not, how do we expect them to know what to do?

Journey to God's Heart
Bible Study Series

MOSES
THE DELIVERER



Day 1

Master Orchestrator

As a result of God's promise to Abraham, the Israelites had multiplied, settled in Egypt and become too numerous for the Egyptians' comfort. Moses was born at a time when Pharaoh decided to respond to this perceived threat by killing all male Israelite children, first trying through the Israelite midwives, and when that didn't work, commanding all his people to do so (Exodus 1:15-16, 22).

However, God had a plan to use an Israelite to bring His people out of bondage in Egypt to the land God had promised Abraham. Moses was the one God selected for that purpose.

Having been hidden by his biological mother for 3 months, God orchestrated events such that Pharaoh's daughter would be bathing in the river, the very day his mother hid him in the makeshift boat.

God ensured Pharaoh's daughter saw the boat, saw the child and put compassion for the child in her heart. Remember it was her own father who had commanded that all male Israelite children be killed. Yet she took this child into her care. In addition to that she paid Moses's biological mother to care for him until he was weaned. Who else but God can arrange such a series of events to get the outcome He wants?

Reflect: God is the master orchestrator, He alone can make the necessary connections for the fulfilment of His plans.

Day 2

Preparation

Moses grew up in Pharaoh's court with the elite of Egypt and understood the culture and practices of Egypt, yet he still identified with the Israelites and as an adult, he wanted to understand their burdens.

Overcome by emotion, Moses killed an Egyptian he saw mistreating one of his brethren, fled from Egypt because Pharaoh heard about it and wanted him dead, and ended up in Midian looking after his father-in-law's flock (Exodus 2:11-15; 3:1). Moses went from being a prince in Egypt to being a shepherd of someone else's flock in Midian.

On the surface, Moses would've looked like a huge failure to anyone hearing his story. But God had a plan. The Moses God wanted to use wasn't the one used to living in the comfort of the king's courts, but the one who had experienced humility in the wilderness. So much so that it was said of him, "Now Moses was a very humble man, more so than any man on the face of the earth." (Num 12:3). The one who shepherded his father-in-law's flock would be the one to shepherd Israel during the journey to the promise land.

His experience in Egypt wasn't discounted though, because having grown up there, Moses understood the protocol of addressing the king and would have grown up with the Pharaoh in power at the time the Israelites were to leave Egypt. God used all these to prepare Moses for the role he would play in God's plan for Israel.

It's the same way God takes everything about us, our character traits, skills and experiences (good and bad) to prepare us for His assignments. The preparation process may not always be pleasant, but it's key to fulfilling our role in God's bigger agenda.

Prayer: Lord fill me with the knowledge of your will for my life so I can have understanding about what I'm going through right now and cooperate with your plan for me.

Day 3

Divine Activation

“So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.” Exodus 2:24-25

The time had come for God to activate Moses to step into his divine role. Little did Moses know that it was God who drew his attention to the burning bush, and that his life was about to change forever (Exodus 3:1-7).

“Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” Exodus 3:10

When the time comes to step into the assignment, it's more than likely your response will be similar to that of Moses: I can't do it!!! But we must remember that when God sends us, He takes responsibility for equipping us, we just have to obey. The Lord reminded Moses that it's Him (God) that was delivering the children of Israel from Egypt, Moses was just the vessel He would use to achieve this (Exodus 3:15-22).

The same applies to us. We need to approach life's challenges by leaning on the I AM THAT I AM (Exodus 3:14). By this name, God showed a key part of His character: He is who we need Him to be when we need that aspect of His character. He doesn't give us an assignment and walk away, rather He takes full responsibility for us and the outcome and all we are required to do is obey.

Sounds simple enough, but when God asks us to do things that seem impossible - like telling an exiled murderer to go back to the land and people he ran away from to face Pharaoh and demand that he release the Israelites who had been his slaves for decades - it doesn't appear so simple. But the I Am that I Am will never send us where His grace won't cover us.

Reflect: What's that thing that appears impossible to you right now? Commit it into God's hands and ask Him to show you His will and give you the grace to walk in faith and obedience

Day 4

What's in Your Hand?

“So the LORD said to him, “What *is* that in your hand?” He said, “A rod.”” Exodus 4:2

When Moses was giving his reasons to God for not being able to approach pharaoh, God did something to show Moses who was really in control. He turned the shepherd's rod Moses had in his hand to a snake and back to a rod; God also turned Moses' hand into that of a leper, and back to normal (Exodus 4:3-9). Essentially God was telling Moses that He would not be limited by his (Moses) perceived inabilities. God was fully in charge.

Even when Moses complained that he couldn't speak to pharaoh, God arranged for Aaron his brother to reunite with him and act as his mouthpiece. No matter what shortcomings we believe we have, God already has a solution for it, we just need to turn everything over to him.

Note something interesting in Exodus 4:20: 'Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took **the rod of God** in his hand.'

Moses had transferred ownership of the rod to God – what previously had been his equipment for managing the flock would now be used as a tool through which miracles would occur. Same tool, but the ownership made the difference.

It's the same thing with us – whatever we have in our hands may appear simple, even inconsequential. But when God is involved, He can use the ordinary in extraordinary ways.

Action Step – Make a conscious effort to turn everything you are, everything you have and everything you do over to God and watch how He transforms it all.

Day 5

First Encounter

When Moses approached Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go, it appears he expected the release to happen immediately. Instead not only did Pharaoh not release the Israelites, he increased the workload and made their work more difficult (Exodus 5:6-9).

Understandably Moses was confused and had to ask God questions: 'So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me? ' (Exodus 5:22).

Very often when we encounter a challenge, we expect the resolution to happen immediately, especially if we believe God has given us a promise about the challenge. When we face some level of resistance, it's likely that we think of giving up, but it's important to understand that the resolution may not come immediately, or in the way we expect.

'So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.' Exodus 6:9

The Israelites believed Moses initially, but when things got tough, they started doubting him. However, Moses still trusted God and went to meet Pharaoh again to demand for the release of the Israelites as he was instructed. That began a series of miraculous events that showed all of Egypt that God was serious about His instruction.

It's important that we don't give up when we see face challenges – we don't always know the big picture of what God has in mind, so what looks like resistance to your dreams/goals/promise could just be the backdrop created to showcase God's power in your life.

We need to trust that God knows what is best for us and is looking for the best outcome for us.

Reflect: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9



Day 6

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Outcomes

In Exodus 6 we see the Lord reassuring Moses of the deliverance of the children of Israel after Moses had initially demanded their release and Pharaoh had increased their burden in response (Exodus 6:1-13). Then all of a sudden from the next verse begins the genealogy of the family of Moses and Aaron from the time of their forefathers (Exodus 6:14-27).

Why was this necessary? The answer is in verses 26-27: "These are the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies." These are the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt. These are the same Moses and Aaron." (Exodus 6:26-27)

"These are the same Moses and Aaron", ordinary men from ordinary families. In case you think being used by God is reserved for a few, these verses remind us that simply isn't the case. God can use anyone from anywhere to do anything provided the person is yielded to Him. The more yielded you are, the more He can do with you.

Since God can do anything with anyone then the next question is what stops us from experiencing God's fullness in our lives? The answer is in Proverbs 25:4 "Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel;". Dross means impurities, things that are upon a metal that need to be removed so the metal can be put to good use.

We all have some form of dross in our lives that limits us from being all we were created to be. Everyone's dross is different, but it's there: lying, stealing, gossiping, cheating, prayerlessness, laziness, pride - these are just some examples, you know what is operating in your life. If you want to draw near to God, pray in all sincerity for the Holy Spirit to remove the things in your life that have to go. And be willing to release them.

Since our walk with God is a journey, it may not all go in one day, so don't be discouraged, keep praying and keep yielding to the Holy Spirit to help you live life in all the fullness God has planned for you.

Reflect: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to light everything that needs to be addressed (you may not even be aware of some). Pray as David did, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24



Day 7

In Charge

“And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”” (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh’s arrogance was based on his ignorance of the sovereignty of God. From Exodus 7-12 we read about the calamities God brought upon Egypt:

1. Water into blood - Exodus 7:14–24
2. Frogs – Exodus 8:1-15
3. Lice – Exodus 8:16-19
4. Flies – Exodus 8:20-32
5. Pestilence – Exodus 9:1-7
6. Boils – Exodus 9:8-12
7. Hail – Exodus 9:13-35
8. Locusts – Exodus 10:1-20
9. Darkness – Exodus 10:21-29
10. Death of the firstborn - Exodus 12:29-30

God made sure that Pharaoh was in no doubt that He was the one inflicting these calamities and we see a change in position at the end of the last calamity: “Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, “Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said. Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also.”” Exodus 12:31-32

Interesting that the same person who refused to acknowledge God earlier now not only released the Israelites but also asked Moses to bless him. Pharaoh came to realise that the sovereignty of God is un-negotiable. He is God all by Himself and we are the works of His hands.

Think about all the Egyptians who suffered because of Pharaoh’s pride and stubbornness. Each of the plagues would have lasted about a week on average so the back and forth between Moses, Aaron and Pharaoh would have lasted about 2 months. Yet through it all the children of Israel were shielded by God.

He is the same God yesterday today and forever. Even though there may be difficulties in the nation, workplace, school, home, God has the power to shield His own from the negative impact.

Reflect: Have the issues you’re going through made you lose focus of God’s sovereignty? Or are you experiencing peace regardless of what’s going on around you because of who your trust is in?



Day 8

Go Forward *in spite of the odds*

“Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”” (Exodus 14:5).

The pain of losing their firstborns was replaced with anger and the Egyptians decided to get their servants the Israelites back. Unknown to them, God had already anticipated this reaction and set things in motion. Taking the best of their military might, they pursued Israel. However, they again misread the situation, thinking that they were dealing with just people and not the God behind the people.

Even though the Israelites had God on their side, they were also afraid initially when they saw the army pursuing them (Exodus 14:10-13) so Moses reminded them of who they were dealing with “The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” Exodus 14:14

God’s response to their fear is something we need to learn from: “And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.” Exodus 14:15. Go forward into what appeared an impossible situation: a sea they couldn’t imagine walking through. God gave Moses instructions and moving based on his obedience, God parted the sea and the Israelites walked through on dry land - a major act of faith. The Egyptians followed into the sea, but that action led to their demise.

Two things we need to learn from this:

1. We can’t box God into our circumstances, He’s the only one capable of creating a way in what appears to be impossible circumstances.
2. Hear God for yourself! God worked through Moses’s obedience to deliver Israel. That deliverance wasn’t meant for Egypt, rather the opposite. An opportunity that exalts one person can destroy another.

Reflect: God is bigger than your current circumstances. Have you taken time to hear from God today on how to go forward?

Day 9

Attitude

“So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!” Exodus 17:4

The children of Israel were free from the bondage of Egypt, but they still had an attitude of complaining. Because they were in the desert discomforts would come as well as lack of water or type of food they wanted for some time and then the complaints to Moses would begin.

Over and over Moses reminded them that he wasn't the one leading them but God. Note that no one offered to seek God's face on behalf of the others or even to pray for Moses when there were challenges. It was easier to complain to and about Moses rather than take responsibility for resolving the challenge.

When Moses was in the mountain with God for 40 days, they and Aaron did the unthinkable: “And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”” (Exodus 32:4)

How quickly they forgot the miraculous battles God fought for them in bringing them out of Egypt!

While we may chastise the Israelites, can we truly say there aren't times we have forgotten what God has done for us and built idols for ourselves? The idol may not be a gold calf, but it could be our jobs, our finances, our families, our reputation, even our families. These things are not bad in themselves - many of them we probably prayed for at some point - but it's our dependence on them that makes the difference. Anything we depend on and make more important than God in our lives is an idol.

Personal evaluation: Have you come to the place where you can say you will always have an attitude of gratitude rather than complain when you don't get what you want when you want it? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the things you've made idols in your life and also ask for help to put them in their proper place.

Day 10

Divine Patterns

“See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” Exodus 25:40

While on the mountain Moses received several instructions from God regarding the temple and laws concerning Israel’s conduct. God made it clear that there was a structure He had in mind and told Moses not just what to do, but who to take up the necessary tasks.

“Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.” “And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others.” Exodus 35:30, 34

When God sets a pattern for your life, He takes responsibility not just for what you are supposed to do, but who is meant to help you do it. Why? Because it’s part of His plan. Moses did not have to train anyone, he just had to listen to God for direction on who to approach.

The Bible is filled with examples of people receiving instructions from God on who to provide assistance to and how. Too often we get disappointed with people who don’t seem to come through for us when we need. Is it possible that they haven’t been sent by God to help us in that particular assignment? When we have a need our first response is usually to go to who we believe can help us rather than go to God to ask Him who he’s assigned to help us meet that need.

We see also that God had given Bezalel and Oholiab specific skill sets which equipped them for the task ahead. The same pattern applies to us. We are all uniquely equipped to function in different ways. We need to ask God what He’s equipped us to do rather than follow what seems to be the popular thing. Just because someone succeeds in an area doesn’t mean that area is meant for everyone.

Prayer: Ask God to show you the pattern for your life, who are you supposed to be, what are you supposed to do and who has been assigned to help you?

Day 11

Unselfish

“A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!” But Moses replied, “Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”” Numbers 11:27-29

The Israelites’ constant demands and complaints while they were on their journey to Canaan were wearing Moses out and he prayed to God for help. God then instructed him on what to do and told Moses he would put some of the power of the Spirit Moses carried on the identified elders (Numbers 11:1-17).

As a result, some of the men who had been identified but hadn’t even show up to the meeting also received the Spirit and began to prophecy. God’s promise isn’t limited to someone being physically being present when the promise was made, He knows how to locate you when the time comes. The real lesson here however is the attitude of Moses. He was held in very high esteem because of the power of God at work in his life and all the miracles God used him to perform. However, we see from his response to Joshua that he didn’t have a problem sharing the power, so long as God’s objective was met.

Imagine what life would be like if the focus was not on promoting ourselves, but ensuring God’s objectives would be met? How open would we be to teaching, learning, sharing if self-preservation wasn’t on the agenda? What would our homes, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces and nation look like?

This was God’s objective for Israel. He wanted a nation that would serve as an example of God’s standards for how to live.

“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.” Exodus 19:5-6

With the death and resurrection of Jesus, this objective is now not just for the nation of Israel but for all who carry God’s Spirit.

“But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.” 1 Peter 2:9

Reflect: Do you reflect the goodness of God to those around you? Are you unselfish and generous with all you’ve been blessed to be and have? You may be the only example of Christ’s love some people get to experience.

Day 12

Forgiveness

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this. (Num 12:1-2)

Moses had two older siblings, his sister Miriam and brother Aaron. At some point they began to speak against him because he had married a Cushite, but the real reason was envy. The question they were really asking was not about his wife, but: “why should Moses get all the attention? After all God speaks through us also.”

Envy had come into the equation and God had corrected them immediately. God stated in no uncertain terms that while He may speak through many people, His relationship with Moses was different. As part of her punishment, Miriam’s skin became leprous on the spot. What we should take note of is Moses’ response to the backbiting by his siblings. When Miriam was punished, Moses could have gloated, after all she did deserve it, didn’t she? (Numbers 12:4-12).

“So Moses cried out to the LORD, “Please, God, heal her!” (Numbers 12:13)

Moses didn’t ignore Miriam’s condition or whisper a sullen prayer, rather he cried out to God to heal her. He made a passionate plea for someone who had not only insulted him but insulted his wife and his leadership of the children of Israel. Moses forgave Miriam immediately and prayed to God on her behalf.

I believe we all agree that not many people would do that. The forgiving state of his heart was one of the reasons God called Moses His friend. Moses showed the capacity to forgive as God forgives – totally. “And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”
Mark 11:25

Question: Who are you holding a grudge against? Let it go and forgive the person, don’t let an unforgiving heart keep you away from God.

Day 13

Vision

“Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” Num 14:9

When it was time to spy the land of Canaan all 12 men acknowledged that the land was indeed good and brought back evidence of its fruitfulness. However, they were afraid of what they saw in the land and even began to see themselves as grasshoppers in comparison (Num 13:33). They were afraid to take the land God had promised Abraham and began spreading a bad report about Canaan. Their crime wasn't that they were afraid of the opposition, but that they doubted God had the power to deliver what He had promised and wanted to choose a leader to take them back to Egypt (Num 14:4).

This was the point when the Lord confronted their contempt and pronounced judgement on the Israelites. They would roam for 40 years in the desert and those 20 and above would all (with the exception of Caleb and Joshua) die in the wilderness (Num 14:20-25).

Let's review the promise God made:

“On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.” Gen 15:18-19,21

God had already factored these nations in when He promised the land and knew that he would fight for Israel to occupy the land. Yet they doubted Him and His power to save. We often think that when God promises us something it will be free from contention, however that may not always be the case.

If God has made a promise, He is faithful to keep it and knows the strategy with which He will bring the promise to pass. He is God, none can with stand Him, nothing can oppose Him. (2 Chron 20:6).

When we face challenges we have to look not from the perspective of our own capacity, but from the perspective of the God who can never fail.

Reflect: What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom 8:31)

Day 14

Approved by God

“Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” Numbers 20:8

“Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.” Numbers 20:11-12

God is extremely detailed so when He gives an instruction, He's very particular about it being obeyed as instructed. Moses and Aaron were told clearly to speak to the rock, however Moses struck it twice in anger. There are many lessons here, but one critical thing to note is that in spite of not following God's specific instruction, water still came out of the rock.

This tells us that it's possible for us to get results without having God's approval. The reason for this is that God is interested in the outcome of the instruction and will always honour His word. In this case, He wanted to give water to the Israelites and that happened. The Israelites would have praised Moses and Aaron for this miracle, however God punished them for their disobedience and neither of them entered the promised land.

Please understand that just because you're seeing favourable results in your life doesn't necessarily mean God approves of you, don't confuse the two. It's important that we always check with God what the state of our relationship with Him is and take corrective action immediately if there's anything He shows us we're doing wrong.

Question: Where are you in your relationship with God? Not based on what He's given you, but how much of Himself He gives you access to

Day 15

Bringing it all together

Abraham, Moses and David, though their paths were very different all three men made a journey to God's heart. What did they all have in common?

- They paid the price of time spent with God – the miracles and victories we read about in their lives were a result of their intimacy with God. David wrote psalms about his relationship with God, Moses spent months in God's presence with God speaking plainly to him and Abraham was so close to God, God called Abraham His friend. These all came at a price – time spent in the presence of God.
- They obeyed God – Each of them prioritised obeying God immediately – they understood that delayed obedience is disobedience
- They cared about others – Their focus wasn't just on themselves, but on the welfare of others. They were willing to be used by God to change the lives of others even at the cost of their personal comfort. Moses didn't have to leave pharaoh's court to lead stubborn and grumbling people for 40 years. David could have chosen to have himself ordained as king immediately Saul died, and he didn't have to show kindness to Jonathan's son (2 Sam 9:1).
- They were men of faith – Abraham at 75 could have chosen to stay in Harran rather than travel to a place he didn't even know (Gen 12:1) and believe God for a child from his barren wife even when they were both very old (Heb 11:7-12). David conquered kingdoms by faith (1 Samuel 23-2 Samuel 5, 21). Moses worked many miracles by faith (Exodus, Numbers).
- They were very human – Just like anyone else, they made mistakes which they paid a price for (Abraham with Ishmael, Moses with striking the rock, David with Bathsheba).
- They repented – Mistakes were made, but they went back to God in genuine repentance, not just remorse. Remorse simply means you feel bad for what you did, repentance means you turn away from the action and don't do it again.
- They were consistent – They all walked with God until they died.

These men were normal people just like us, but they allowed themselves to be used by God for extraordinary things. They're not an exception though. Come near to God and he will come near to you (James 4:8).

Are you ready to make the journey to God's heart?

Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, connect with us on:

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