

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 20

Deuteronomy 31–32

Day One: Preparing the Next Leader

Moses' role as God's mediator was nearing its end. He had lived for one hundred and twenty years: forty years in Egypt; forty years in Midian; and forty years spent wandering through the wilderness, up to the border of the Promised Land. God had told Moses, "*You shall not cross over this Jordan,*" and now for the last time Moses will encourage the people as he commissions their new leader.

Who was qualified to fill Moses' sandals and lead God's people into the Promised Land? How many candidates were in line for the position? The entire adult generation that walked out of Egypt had all died in the wilderness except for Moses and two other individuals: *Joshua* and *Caleb*. These two men were the only ones of the twelve spies who believed God and were allowed to possess the promised inheritance. Certainly both were men of faith and obedient to the Lord, but God called *Joshua*!

Read Deuteronomy 31:1–29 along with Numbers 27:12–23.

1. According to Numbers 11:28 (see NASB translation), what qualified Joshua as Moses' successor?

Selah . . .

Think for a moment what it must have been like for Joshua to be mentored by Moses from his early years. What are some of the things Joshua would have learned sitting at the feet of this man of God?

Joshua did not know he was being groomed for leadership, but Moses probably saw the potential in this young man and realized that one day God was going to use him in a mighty way.

2. What does Moses ask of God concerning the man who would replace him?
What kind of heart did Moses want this man to have? See Numbers 27:15–20.
 - a. According to verse 18 of this same passage, what does God say regarding Joshua? Why is this essential for leadership?
 - b. What was Moses instructed to do for Joshua—why? v. 20

Moses was sincere in asking for a leader who God Himself would single out. Moses did not presume who that might be; rather he committed the choice to God's sovereignty.

Look closer . . .

According to 1 Samuel 16:7, why is it best to leave the choice up to the Lord?

- ❖ Contrast the difference between being *appointed by man* or *called by God*.

3. Who would actually be leading the Israelites into the Promised Land?
Deuteronomy 31:3
 - a. What charge does Moses give the people? v. 6
 - b. What word of *exhortation* does Moses extend to Joshua? v. 7
 - c. What word of *encouragement* does Moses share with him? v. 8

Heartbeat . . . “And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”
Deuteronomy 31:8

Day Two:

Preserving the Law

What is the best way to pass on to the next generation the perspective and practices that will result in changed lives—those that honor the Lord? The answer is in the Scriptures, in the accounts of individuals who lived and failed and learned from those failures: “*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come*” (1 Corinthians 10:11). Whether you are a product of a Christian home, a broken home, or perhaps no home at all, you can profit from those who have gone before you searching for the meaning of life, only to find it in a relationship with the living God.

Read Deuteronomy 31:9–13.

1. After Moses wrote down all the words of the law, to whom did he entrust it for safe keeping? v. 9
2. How often and on what occasion was the law thereafter to be read? vv. 10–11
3. What was the objective each time the law was read in the hearing of the people? vv. 12–13

There would come a day when both Moses and Joshua would be gone. In order to keep the word of God alive in the hearts of the people, the priests were to read it aloud every seven years.

Romans 10:17 says, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” The Amplified version reads, “*So faith comes by hearing [what is told], and what is heard comes by the preaching [of the message that came from the lips] of Christ, the Messiah [Himself].*” Maintaining a vital relationship with God means hearing Him speak to you through His Word and then obeying His voice!

4. Personal: What have *you heard* the Lord speak to your heart this week through His Word? How will you act on it, making it your own?

Selah . . .

Select one of the following individuals you have studied this year: *Moses—Aaron—Miriam—*or *Joshua*. Which person has impacted you the most? What life lesson has God brought home to your heart through their example?

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Three: Predicting the Outcome

Read Deuteronomy 31:14–29.

Throughout the years of his ministry Moses kept a detailed written record of everything God said and did on behalf of His people. He left that record with the priests who placed it in the Ark of the Covenant for safe keeping. But Moses knew that there would come the day when the people would turn away from the Lord to worship idols, and God would judge them for it.

1. What does God tell Moses that His people will do? vv. 16–18; 20–21
2. Why does God instruct Moses to write down the words of the song he was to teach them? v. 19
3. What does Moses predict will be the outcome soon after he is gone? v. 29

The song would serve as a witness of God's faithfulness and Israel's disloyalty. Even sadder is the fact that Israel's downfall would begin to happen soon after entering the Promised Land. God would permit disaster to befall His people in order to get their attention and win back their hearts!

Is God currently trying to get your attention or win back your heart? To what lengths are you willing to go before you turn to Him? Psalm 1 paints a vivid illustration of how to avoid sin and keep your eyes fixed on the Lord. Read this psalm through and then finish each of the following verses that are begun for you:

v. 1: *Blessed is the man who*

v. 2: *But his delight is in*

v. 3: *He shall be like*

- ❖ Are you *walking—standing—or sitting*—where you don't belong? Please explain. Get back to delighting and meditating in God's Word. Let Him re-ignite the fire of desire in your heart to follow Him. "*For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish*" (v. 6).

Day Four:

Presenting the Song

Read Deuteronomy 31:30–32:1–47.

“Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.”

The Lord summoned Moses and Joshua to the tent of meeting where He instructed them to write down a song to be remembered and sung for generations to come. It would remind God’s people of His nature, as well as His mercy and faithfulness. It would also warn future generations of the danger and consequences of idolatry. They wrote it down (v. 22), taught it to the leaders (v. 28), and then to the congregation (v. 30).

The Song of Moses can be divided into four parts which are defined for you below. Summarize the main thought of each division in your own words.

1. The *character* of God (vv. 1-4)
2. The *kindness* of God (vv. 5–14)
3. The *discipline* of God upon His people (vv. 15–25)
4. The *retribution* of God upon His enemies (vv. 26–43)
5. Which of the above most closely addresses *your* current situation and why?

Day Five:

Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing you can act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promise Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes