

Redeeming the Time and Active Waiting

Personal Experience

Moses

Today we will study together the life of Moses, which is very nicely summarized in Hebrews 11:24-26:

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

When Moses wants to deliver his people on his own by killing an Egyptian, he fails miserably. Moses then takes care of the sheep for 40 years in the wilderness. Why do you think Moses spent so much time in the dessert?

EGW wrote in Ministry of Healing, p.478: "Consider the experience of Moses. The education he received in Egypt as the king's grandson and the prospective heir to the throne was very thorough. Nothing was neglected that was calculated to make him a wise man, as the Egyptians understood wisdom. He received the highest civil and military training. He felt that he was fully prepared for the work of delivering Israel from bondage. But God judged otherwise. His providence appointed Moses forty years of training in the wilderness as a keeper of sheep... As he led his flocks through the wilds of the mountains and into the green pastures of the valleys, he learned **faith and meekness, patience, humility, and self-forgetfulness**. He learned to **care for the weak, to nurse the sick, to seek after the straying, to bear with the unruly, to tend the lambs, and to nurture the old and the feeble.**"

EGW wrote in another place: "Shut in by the bulwarks of the mountains ... Moses became patient, reverent, and humble, **“very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth”** (Numbers 12:3), yet strong in faith." {EP 171.4}

Moses could say I am wasting my time, and to fall in depression. Moses was not instructed that he will after 40 years of shepherding he will be assigned a big task. God does not give us explanation now of what will happen in the future and in which order. He teaches us to continually rely on Him.

EGW wrote in Ministry of Healing, p.479 in Section "Plans for the Future": "Many are unable to make definite plans for the future. Their life is unsettled. They cannot discern the outcome of affairs, and this often fills them with **anxiety and unrest**. Let us remember that the life of God's children in this world is a pilgrim life. **We have not wisdom to plan our own lives**. It is not for us to shape our future. **“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”** Hebrews 11:8.

In our lives, we are called to make one step with Jesus at a time.

EGW continues: "Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let God plan for you. As a little child, trust to the guidance of Him who will “keep the feet of

His saints.” 1 Samuel 2:9. **God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him.**”

Let's look at how Moses used his time, apart from inherent character building by taking care of sheep.

EGW continues: "In this work Moses was drawn nearer to the Chief Shepherd. He became closely united to the Holy One of Israel. No longer did he plan to do a great work. He sought **to do faithfully as unto God the work committed to his charge**. He recognized the presence of God in his surroundings. All nature spoke to him of the Unseen One. He knew God as a personal God, and, in **meditating upon His character** he grasped more and more fully the sense of His presence. He found refuge in the everlasting arms."

EGW writes in another book: "As the years rolled on, his **prayers for Israel ascended by day and by night**. Here, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, **he wrote the book of Genesis**. The long years spent amid the desert solitudes were rich in blessing to the world in all ages. {EP 172.1}"

Isaiah 55:6-9 reads:

6 Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;

And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

We like to refer to God's promises in the last two words, but it's good to consider also the conditions (the first two verses). We need to seek for God.

EGW says ""If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5. But God will **not** impart to men **divine light while they are content to remain in darkness**. In order to receive God's help, man must realize his weakness and deficiency; he must apply his own mind to the great change to be wrought in himself; **he must be aroused to earnest and persevering prayer and effort.**" {EP 171.3}

If we faithfully do the work committed to us, no matter how humble it is, using our daily opportunities as much as possible, if we spend time in prayer, God will accomplish great things through us. Do you know about some other shepherds in the Bible that were assigned an important role?

EGW writes: " While the shepherds were watching their flocks on the hills of Bethlehem, **angels from heaven visited them**. So today while **the humble worker for God is following his employment, angels of God stand by his side**, listening to his words, noting the manner in which his work is done, **to see if larger responsibilities may be entrusted to his hands.**"

When the time is up, and we do active waiting, God intervenes. Galatians 4:4 reads: "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law." When the time is up, God sends Moses to deliver His people; when the time is up, God sends His Son to deliver the humanity. When the time is up and when we do active waiting, God calls us for a special mission.

Some people wait on circumstances to change or to God to intervene without doing anything on their side. But the Bible does not call us in laziness. Waiting on God does not mean passivity; it's not an excuse for laziness. We have to work hard from our side, and God will bless it. Use every opportunity, every bit of time. Let's look on how apostles were actively waiting.

Lc 24,49 reads: "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but **tarry in the city of Jerusalem** until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1.10-14 reads:

10 And while they **looked steadfastly** toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, **why do you stand gazing up into heaven?** This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. 13 And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. 14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Conclusion & application

During the Corona time, we may be tempted to just follow news very, which distracts us from doing useful work or helping people in need. I was following the numbers very closely too, but then I decided that it distracts me from my mission. People are nowadays so easily distracted from doing the right thing. When there is an accident, people do a video-recording, rather than helping people in the immediate need on the spot.

Ephesians 5:16 reads: "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil". It is exactly in this time, when the days are evil, that we need to wisely use our time. Let us not spend time worrying or being afraid about things we cannot change or influence, but rather spend time building ourselves, helping others and working on the tasks God appointed us to do.

I got a message from a friend: "*No movies. No concerts. No sporting events. No gyms. No restaurants. No social gatherings. Limited workload. There are no church services. I've cleared your schedule—can we talk now? - God.*"

Ecclesiastes 9:10 reads "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."

There is a story of an old wise man who said to his grandson: "**Give the world the best you have and the best will come back to you.**" Then he continued: "I have asked myself - **what if every day I had refused to accept the yesterday's definition of my best?** So much would have come back to me... to your father...to you. But now it won't, because I didn't. It is too late for me. But it's not too late for you." His grandson held his breath along with everyone there at the somber power of a man's regret at the end of his life. "It is too late for me." {adopted from The Story Factor book}. Let us not wait for the end of the life to make such a discouraging summary. Rather, let us invest our time wisely, so that we can say that we served according to the best of our abilities.

During the confinement, God gave us time to prepare for our mission. Are we ready? How did we use this time to be closer to God? Do we use the time and opportunities we have to the best of our abilities?