Series: Steps to Freedom

March 11, 2018

Message Two:

**Time to Act**

Exodus 2:11-25

Guests - Growth Track - Giving

**Intro:** Steps to Freedom - Last week - God’s Got a Plan for Your Life

Today - I want to encourage you to begin to act on that plan -

Exodus 2:11-25 - Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. “Why are you beating up your friend?” Moses said to the one who had started the fight.

The man replied, “Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?”

Then Moses was afraid, thinking, “Everyone knows what I did.” And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian.

When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well. Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters who came as usual to draw water and fill the water troughs for their father’s flocks. But some other shepherds came and chased them away. So Moses jumped up and rescued the girls from the shepherds. Then he drew water for their flocks.

When the girls returned to Reuel, their father, he asked, “Why are you back so soon today?”

“An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds,” they answered. “And then he drew water for us and watered our flocks.”

“Then where is he?” their father asked. “Why did you leave him there? Invite him to come and eat with us.”

Moses accepted the invitation, and he settled there with him. In time, Reuel gave Moses his daughter Zipporah to be his wife. Later she gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, for he explained, “I have been a foreigner in a foreign land.”

Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.

Three questions -

**> Do you know who you are?**

Exodus 2:11 - Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews.

Lots of ancestry studies … commercials … people changing their entire identities based on DNA -

Interesting …

That doesn’t matter nearly as much as who I am in Christ!

Matthew 16:13-16 - When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

“Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Who do men say that I am?

Who do you say that I am?

Who Christ was in His mission from God was most important!

We need to ask Jesus - Who do YOU say that I am?

* **You are worthy of grace.**

Purchased you with precious blood -

1st Peter 1:18-19 - For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

* **You are worthy of freedom.**

John 8:32 - And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:36 - So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.

My past doesn’t define me anymore -

I have had a very blessed life - great parents … I’m grateful for that …

But I used to get in fights … Indian Heights …

Mark Badders …

I could have gone more in that direction - that person doesn’t define me anymore.

You may have a different testimony -

* drug abuse
* Abused other people
* Addicted to pornography
* Committed adultery
* Sexual sin of any kind
* Liar
* Hypocrite
* Greedy

None of those things needs to define you anymore! You are worthy of freedom!

* **You are worthy of gifts.**

2nd Peter 1:3-4 - By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires.

Romans 12:6 - In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

1st Corinthians 12:7 - A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

* **You are worthy to be a servant of Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 4:11-12 - Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

Called to serve …

Peter - rough fisherman - denied Christ … became the leader of the Church …

Paul was a terrorist - a persecutor of Christians … wanted them dead … He became one of God’s greatest servants in spreading the Good News about Jesus all over the known world. Christianity grew from an infant faith of a few people to a multi-national culture changing force - mostly because God chose a messed up, big-headed intellectual who was full of hate and caused people pain to lead His Church.

You are worthy to be a servant of Jesus Christ -

Realize - God wants you to Know Him - God wants to set you free - God wants you to know the gifts He has for you - God has a place for you to serve and make a difference for Him!

You are worth all that - because Jesus decided you are worth it!

Moses found out who He was in the plan of God - have you found that out?

**> Do you sometimes take matters into your own hands?**

Exodus 2:11-12 - …During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews. After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

Moses, Moses, Moses - what are you doing? What are you thinking?

Keep in mind - he’s been raised in the king's house - he probably thinks he can get away with anything he wants -

But - he’s killing one of the king’s people to defend a slave. The Egyptians looked at the Hebrews as no more than dogs. It’s like Moses is killing a man because he kicked a dog.

Moses didn’t yet know the fullness of God’s plan - He didn’t even know God at this point.   
  
He just wanted to defend “his people.”

**His identity was in “his people” instead of in his God.**

We have a history of racism in our land. Say all you want about things being better than they used to be - we still have racism and hatred in our land.

Why? Because there is racism and hatred everywhere!

Human nature is no better than it used to be.

Jeremiah 17:9 - The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

We have to get a new heart …

Ezekiel 36:26 - And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

Even after we’ve walked with Christ for a while, we need to watch this -

Keith Green prayer … "Lord, You gotta do something about my heart. You know a lot of time has gone by since I've met You, and it's starting to harden up, You know, It's kinda natural. I want to have baby skin, Lord. I want to have skin like a baby on my heart. It's starting to get old and wrinkled, and calloused. It's not because of anything I am doing, it's because of a lot of things I am not doing.”

Who I am is who Jesus says I am! My identity needs to be focused on who I am in Christ -

* There is a Blenkensop Castle …
* Some say we go back to William the Conqueror - sounds kind of cool - he’s famous, but he was a violent man who tortured and killed many people.

I don’t want my identity wrapped up in that.



I’m thankful for my heritage - but my Dad was raised dirt poor in a cabin built before the Civil War - he doesn’t want to go back to that.

On my Mom’s side - generations of believers - but you go back far enough, they were Kentuckians who liked the moonshine.

We can laugh about that - make jokes about that - have fun with that - but I don’t want people who were addicted to moonshine whiskey - who only lived for the next drink, to be my identity -

Wherever you come from - whatever your background - that might be interesting and cool - but it shouldn’t define you more than who Christ says you are!

Kyle Sadler …

Romans 8:6,9,12,14-15 - So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace… But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you… Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do…For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.

Living by the old identity causes us to take matters into our own hands.

A child that is adopted when he is older may have to learn new rules of the house …

Maybe you were a construction worker for one company - you go to a new company - they have a new way of doing things - You have to learn a new way - you can’t live by the old way - you can’t take matters into your own hands.

Vanuatu block laying …

The next day Moses sees two Hebrews fighting - he doesn’t understand why they are fighting amongst each other -

That’s something we should take notice of. As followers of Christ, we don’t further the cause of Christ when we are fighting with one another.

In the process, Moses realized his murder was known …

Pharaoh heard about it, and there was a warrant for Moses arrest - which would surely lead to his death.

Moses runs away - his whole life is disrupted because he didn’t know the plan of God and he took matters into his own hands.

Thankfully - God specializes in working His plan in spite of everything we ignorantly do to try to wreck it.

Moses runs into the desert - sits down at a well - sisters come to draw water for their father’s flocks - some other shepherds start terrorizing the girls - Moses jumps on them and drives them away.

Still getting into scrapes … gives me hope!

He goes home to dinner - gets to marry one of the girls - gets a job as a shepherd with his father-in-law -

All the while, his people are still struggling under the burden of their slavery.

Exodus 2:23-25 - Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.

**> Are you crying out to God?**

I believe there are ways in which it is time for God to act in your life.

* **Is it time for God to act in bringing you into His family?**

Do you know Him? These people didn’t know Him! The people He promised would come about because of Abraham - and be a blessing to the whole world - they didn’t even know Him! Moses didn’t know Him at this point.

God wants to do great things in your life! He wants to touch others and bless others through your life - it is time for Him to act in your life - but you don’t know Him … surrender to Him … confess Jesus as Lord … receive His forgiveness.

**- Is it time for God to set you free?**

You began to follow Christ some time ago, but you are still struggling with issues from your past - habits - attitudes - addictions -

It’s time for freedom! It’s time for God to act in your life.

Cry out to God - He hears the cry! It rises up to God! He sets us free!

**- Is it time for you to find out what your purpose is?**

Moses didn’t know this yet - He’s getting ready to find out -

Burning bush …

We don’t have any burning bushes in our Growth Track - but it’s amazing when people take the Personality Profile - take the Spiritual Gifts analysis - we meet with them personally - the look on their faces when they say, “Yeah! That’s me!”

And they realize that their lives are more than a product of DNA - more than a product what what color their skin is - what their family name and history is - but they realize that they are who they are because God has designed them that way and given them great and awesome gifts!

It may not be a burning bush - but it’s a revelation!

Is it time for you to find out what your purpose is?

**- Is time time for you to act?**

Are you serving? Are you making a difference?

Going to a restaurant is great - you sit down - people serve you - fix your food - bring you coffee -

But if you are only focused on being served - the food never gets there fast enough - the tables are never clean enough - the coffee is never hot enough - Always being served will lead to dissatisfaction -

But, when I serve my wife. When I say, “Honey, let me fix dinner tonight!” She says, “Oh no!”

I can make breakfast - Let’s change this - when I say, “Honey, let’s order pizza tonight!” That simple act of service is a blessing to me because I realize I am being a blessing to her!

Is it time for you to act?

In this story - it was time for God to act -

Maybe it’s time for God to act in your life - but you have to let Him.

* Surrender
* Let Him set you free
* Find out who you are and the purpose He has for you
* Let Him use you to make a difference in other people’s lives.