

2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives

Sermon Series - Transformed Leadership (Moses)

Sermon Title - Transformed Leadership by Obedience Part 1

Sermon Text - Hebrews 11:27-29 & Selected Passages in Exodus

Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry

Full Sermon Notes

“To reconcile the lost, to redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross, for even in Your suffering You saw to the other side, knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died!” Jesus was obedient all the way to the Cross and for that reason we have the opportunity to be forgiven, to be redeemed from our sinful way of life and to be reconciled to God the Father, restored, renewed! For the next two weeks we’re going to talk about how Moses was obedient to God’s call to deliver the Hebrew people out of Egypt and what that obedience looks like and how it applies to our lives today! Next week we will see how the deliverance of Israel from Egypt is a type, a foreshadowing, a prophetic look into the future deliverance Jesus would provide on the Cross for you and me. Let’s Pray and ask God to teach us how our lives and our leadership in life are transformed by obedience! Let’s pray.

We’ve seen how Moses’ life and leadership was transformed by where he found his identity, by his willingness to walk away from the fleeting pleasures of sin, by the fact that he valued his relationship with God over any treasure to be found in Egypt, and that his faith overcame his fears. Today we will discover how his decisions, beliefs, and commitments were followed up with obedience! Obedience happens when a person’s faith and belief that God “can” turns into trust that God “will!” Obedience happens when we believe that God will keep His promises to guide us, go with us, provide and empower us along the way! That step of trust allows us to be obedient like Moses! There are some extremely powerful things we can learn from Moses’ experience as he steps out on faith, trusting God, and returns to Egypt to lead the people out of their bondage and slavery! Let’s read our text in Hebrews 11...

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Hebrews 11:29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

From these three verses and the story of Moses they refer to in Exodus, we discover the anatomy of obedience, its DNA, its structure, its components, its characteristics. We will not have time to unpack all of these things today so this will be a two part sermon! Understanding the importance of obedience is vital for transformed leadership! So let’s see what we can discover! The first thing is that...

Obedience takes action

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

We used this verse last week as we talked about overcoming fear, but this verse also describes the action Moses took the second time he left Egypt. When we look back at Exodus to see the process it took for this to happen we discover that obedience played a vital role!

Exodus 4:29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites,
Exodus 4:30 and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people,
Exodus 4:31 and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.
Exodus 5:1 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"

Moses and Aaron's obedience takes action! They go first to the elders, the leadership of the Israelites, and tell them what God had told Moses and then they go and boldly tell Pharaoh what God has said! Obedience takes action! It steps out in a direction by faith, trusting that God will do what He said and that He will be with you! Sometimes the hardest step to take is the first step! Committing to a course of action. Deciding not to just believe God can, but trusting God will. And just how do we do this? Paul told the Corinthians this...

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we live by faith, not by sight.

I've had the following conversation with so many people in the last month! It's a conversation I have to have with myself all the time! It goes like this: Walking by faith and not by sight is not an easy thing to do. It doesn't come naturally, it has to come supernaturally! Why? Because naturally we learn and are taught to look where we're going. To watch where we're going, and that just makes good rational sense. In the physical realm if you don't look and watch where you're going, you're likely to get hurt. I've had to learn that lesson the hard way! But in the spiritual realm, it is the opposite: if you walk by sight and not by faith, you will miss things and opportunities. Walking by sight in the spiritual realm can be harmful because you will only trust the things you can see, touch and feel and that will cause you to miss out on some of the biggest blessings God has in store for you. Remember what the writer of Hebrews said...

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

And here's what I have to remind myself of all the time. Living or walking by sight for me is more about walking or living by my feelings. Feelings are many times my eyes! I'm prone to go by my feelings. If I'm feeling good, I must be right with God. If I'm feeling confident, then I must be on the right path! If I'm on the mountain top emotionally, then all is well! On the other hand, if I'm not feeling it, then I'm thinking, something must be wrong, I must be on the wrong path, or

maybe God didn't really call me to do this. Truth is, if I went by my feelings or trusted in my feelings, then I would have never planted a church, I would have never recorded any of my three albums, I would never be able to preach a single sermon. Why? Because I feel like I'm not capable or worthy enough to do any of these things, and in many ways that is true, but I can't go by my feelings, I have to go by faith that if God calls me to a task, He will make a way for that task to be completed. And as I stated last week we have to remember this...

Philippians 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Here's an interesting thing that happened back at the beginning of Northshore Church. There was a mega church that was considering supporting us. They gave me a leadership and personality profile test and that was the end of that! My personality and leadership style does not match the world's standard for success. I don't think Moses would have done real well on those tests either. But it all comes down to obedience! If God calls you and you are willing to obey, He'll take care of the rest! He will use your personality and He will transform your leadership and He will work through you to get the job done! And He will even provide an Aaron to walk with you. God sure did that when He brought Jay Victory to walk with me as our Executive Pastor to help us have the structure and organization we needed! And then He brought Andrew Ogea to build and develop our worship ministry. And look at the staff team we've got now. I'm so thankful for our staff and I'm so thankful for the amazing teams of volunteers that each of them have working with them to carry out the various life changing ministries we have here at Northshore Church! From our leadership team, our Admin team, the Shore Kid's team, 180 team, worship team, care team, greeter, ushers and cafe team, small group leaders, men's and women's ministry leaders, sew much joy group, meals that heal team, prayer team, communications and media teams who are helping us reach far beyond the Northshore! And I probably left out some teams, But thanks for being obedient to take action! Now I have to remind you of something that will almost always happen when you take action and obey. It's the second thing we discover about obedience...

Obedience faces push back

Exodus 5:2 Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

Exodus 5:3 Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

Exodus 5:4 But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!"

Exodus 5:5 Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

Exodus 5:6 That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people:

Exodus 5:7 "You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw."

Exodus 5:8 But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'
Exodus 5:9 Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies."

So Pharaoh pushes back and that would be expected right? Of course. The world will always push back against our obedience to the Lord! And remember how the Hebrew people first responded to Aaron and Moses?

Exodus 4:31 and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.
But as soon as things got tough, here's what happened with the people...

Exodus 5:19 The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, "You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day."
Exodus 5:20 When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them,
Exodus 5:21 and they said, "May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

At first obedience may not make sense. There may be difficulties and push back! But if you know God has called you and directed you through His Word and Spirit then you must remain obedient. We are tempted to sometimes retreat or give up. Once Pharaoh steps up the oppression and the people complain to Moses, Moses questions everything...

Exodus 5:22 Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?"

Exodus 5:23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."

God responds and repeats His promise to deliver the people from Pharaoh and tells Moses to tell the people this...

Exodus 6:6 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

Exodus 6:7 I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Exodus 6:8 And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.' "

Once again, Moses obeys, but this happens...

Exodus 6:9 Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

God responds...

Exodus 6:10 Then the LORD said to Moses,

Exodus 6:11 "Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country."

Moses responds...

Exodus 6:12 But Moses said to the LORD, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips?"

Sometimes the pushback comes from our own discouragement and despondency over circumstances and difficulties! God never promised easy, but He does promise to give us what we need to get the job done. In fact here's what He tells Moses...

Exodus 7:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet.

Exodus 7:2 You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country.

Exodus 7:3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt,

Exodus 7:4 he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.

Exodus 7:5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

Exodus 7:6 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them.

God kept his promises to Moses and Aaron and they obeyed even in the face of opposition! The promises of God's Word are for us so that we can obey even in the face of opposition. Promises like this one in Isaiah 41:9-10...

Isaiah 41:9 ... I have chosen you and have not rejected you.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

But there's more to discover about obedience from our story...

Obedience confronts compromise

When God calls us to obedience in any are of our life, and especially in when it comes to being a Christian leader, you can rest assured of this: If Satan can't get you to outright say no to God he will try to get you to compromise, take short cuts, easier ways, less inconvenient ways, but they will always be less than God's perfect plan and will. I don't know if you ever noticed or not,

but the Pharaoh tried to get Moses to compromise what God had told him to do four times. Check it out...

Compromise #1

Exodus 8:25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land."

There had been four plagues at this point, the Nile river was turned to blood, the plague of frogs, the plague of gnats and the plague of flies so Pharaoh and his people were not happy. Pharaoh offers to let them worship God, but they would have to stay in the land of Egypt. We know that God was working to free them from their slavery and this compromise would have thwarted God's ultimate plans. The temptation for many Christians today and sadly for many churches is to hold on to the things of the world and let go of the things of God so we don't offend the world and can be accepted by the world! But when we do that we are compromising the truth of God's Word. You've heard me say it before, we are not to be mean about our convictions or judgemental in the way we treat those who disagree with us, but we are not to compromise or give up our God-given convictions. We are to love everyone deeply with the love of Christ, but we are to hold on tenaciously to our Christian principles. Here's what Moses said...

Exodus 8:26 But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us?"

Exodus 8:27 We must take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us."

When we compromise with the world and do not fully obey the Lord we are giving the devil a foothold and are preventing God's plans of full freedom from coming to reality. Paul told the Church at Ephesus...

Ephesians 4:27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

And Jesus prayed this for us...

John 17:14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

John 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

So we are to be in the world, but not of the world! This is not easy, but it is necessary for obedience. Jesus also said...

Luke 11:28 ... “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

Compromise with the world may seem convenient, but Moses saw through this temptation to compromise and rejected it. We have to do the same! Of course Satan will not give up. He'll make another offer...

Compromise #2

Exodus 8:28 Pharaoh said, “I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me.”

Pharaoh was troubled by these first four plagues and offered another compromise and asked for Moses to pray for him. What he was wanting was for the plagues to stop. But this was more of the same and any compromise with Satan is a bad compromise! Pharaoh wants Moses to not go very far. Stay close to Egypt. Some people like to see how close to sin they can get without sinning! How close to the edge of the cliff they can walk without falling! How much they can compromise and still feel good about themselves.

There's a young blues guitarist that sang some years ago at Heritage Park here in Slidell. He has since made it to the bigtime. His stage name is Kingfish. He sang a blues song that night which says...

“Don't let the devil ride, because if you do he'll wanna drive, don't let him ride! Don't do it!”

That's wisdom and it's good wisdom! But Satan always has his thumb out wanting a ride and compromise is one of the ways we allow him in our car and our lives. Give the devil an inch and he'll take a mile! Moses wasn't about to compromise with Pharaoh but Satan is persistent and after the plague that struck the Egyptian's livestock, the plague of boils, which struck people and animals, the plague of hail and the plague of locusts, Pharaoh offers yet another compromise...

Compromise #3

Exodus 10:8 Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. “Go, worship the LORD your God,” he said. “But tell me who will be going.”

Exodus 10:9 Moses answered, “We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the LORD.”

Exodus 10:10 Pharaoh said, “The LORD be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil.

Exodus 10:11 No! Have only the men go and worship the LORD, since that's what you have been asking for.” Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

Please don't miss the strategic importance of this compromise! Pharaoh wants Moses and Aaron to leave the women and children behind. If Satan can get our families, he's winning the battle! Here's the sad thing. Many men have taken Satan up on this compromise and it wasn't to

go and worship God. Far too many men have left their families vulnerable as they compromise in the following areas of their lives...

Ungodly passions (sins and desires)

Ungodly priorities (things over people and God)

Ungodly pursuits (personal gain over God and others)

Sometimes we are lulled into a false sense of belief that it really doesn't matter what we ingest online, media wise, and even what we allow ourselves to become involved in with conversations with others. But it matters and the safety and well being of our families depends on our resolve to obey without compromise! And this is critical not only for the men, but for you ladies as well. Your resolve to obey without compromise should be as strong. Your faithfulness, your prayers, your example and your walk with God should be such that it is an inspiration to your children and an encouragement to your husbands. And if you're single, realize that your witness to the world has a greater impact than you might imagine and the choices you make can either set you up for God's blessings or set you up for epic failure through Satan's lies. As I've said many times before, every follower of Jesus is a leader in some form or fashion and if we confront the temptation to compromise our obedience to God, our leadership will be transformed! What does this look like? Paul shows us in his words to Titus...

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

You see, we are to say no to compromise with sin and Satan! God wants to redeem us from all wickedness just like He wanted to deliver the Children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt! But guess what happened next in our story. The plague of darkness follows and Pharaoh and his people are getting desperate, so Pharaoh offers one last compromise...

Compromise #4

Exodus 10:24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."

Pharaoh offers a bribe, and extortion. Satan's always got something up his sleeve to try and get us to compromise and be disobedient. But Moses wasn't buying and replied with this...

Exodus 10:25 But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God.

Exodus 10:26 Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshipping the LORD our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the LORD.”

“I love what Moses said: “Not one hoof is to be left behind.” Are you that committed in your obedience to God and His principles and calling on your life? Satan may try to use...

Ungodly powers (rulers and authorities)

You might have a boss ask you to do something dishonest or immoral. Pad the numbers a bit. Lie about this. Sweeten the annual report. And who hasn't faced the temptation to compromise obedience to God by...

Ungodly peers (friends, co-workers-schoolmates, teammates)

Temptation to compromise our morals, our character, our integrity, our convictions, our calling, and our commitments. But here's what we have to remember! God has our best interest at heart. He wants what's best for us! His call for us to obey Him is for our own good! Anyone who wants you to compromise your obedience to God is not out for your good! But I want to close with a passage of Scripture written by King David and I want you to understand from this passage why you should be 100% obedient to God's calling on your life to be a transformed leader with the way you live your life. It's powerful...

Psalms 103:1 Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Psalms 103:2 Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

Psalms 103:3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

Psalms 103:4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

Psalms 103:5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

Psalms 103:7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

Psalms 103:8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Psalms 103:9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

Psalms 103:10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

Psalms 103:11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

Psalms 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Let's pray!