

**2022 Theme - Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives**  
**Sermon Series - Transformed Leadership (Moses)**  
**Sermon Title - Transformed Leadership by knowing your Identity in God**  
**Sermon Text - Hebrews 11:23-24**  
**Sermon Presenter - Pastor Larry**

### **Full Sermon Notes**

“He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace, To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus”

Folks, if your hope is in the things or ways of this world, you won't find freedom or deep and boundless peace! The world just can't give that to you. Moses found that out after 40 years of living in Pharaoh's palace. Let's ask God to teach us this very important truth today! Pray.

Today we're going to begin a look at the transformed leadership of Moses, one of the greatest leaders of all time! Moses has a fascinating beginning to his life and I want to share it with you because it is such a foundation to the truth we're going to discover today! Moses was such an amazing leader because of his identity in God! For someone to find their identity in God two things must happen. First of all, God has to know them and they have to know God! And to be sure, God knows everyone and that includes you! We're going to see this. But you must decide whether or not you want to know God, what you believe about God and whether or not you will follow Him and His will for your life. You can choose to accept or reject God and His path for your life! Moses faced this decision. Our text for today is found in Hebrews 11:23-24. Let's read it together and you will see what I'm talking about.

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

There are two major truths about transformed leadership found in these two verses. Let's look at the first one...

#### **1. Transformed Leadership happens when your identity is based in the fact that you are known by God!**

Hebrews 11:23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

Moses was no ordinary child! God knew Moses and had a plan for him from the very beginning of his life! Moses' parents saw him through God's eyes! They knew and believed God had a plan for Moses and his life. So they didn't fear the king's edict. And just what was this king's edict? We find out in Exodus 1:22...

Exodus 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

According to the Broadman Commentary, “the king who “did not know Joseph” was probably Seti I, the pharaoh of the oppression. His son, Rameses II (1290–1224), was the pharaoh of the exodus.”

Roy L. Jr. Honeycutt, “Exodus,” in Genesis–Exodus, ed. Clifton J. Allen, Broadman Bible Commentary (Broadman Press, 1969), 323.

So we know that Satan had it in for Moses and the Pharaoh wanted all of the Hebrew boys born to be killed immediately. But God knew all of this and most importantly...

### **Moses was known by God and God had a plan for Moses!**

What a difference this was going to make in Moses’ life! He would go on to be one of the greatest leaders in Israel’s history and in the history of the world! And it is fascinating to discover that Moses had some very interesting things in common with Jesus. One of them was that they were both born at a time when mad kings wanted to kill potential rivals even if they were babies. But God’s plan would not be thwarted! It’s very fascinating to see how God worked miraculously in every little detail to protect Moses and to make Moses the man he would need to be in order to be the leader he would need to be for God’s people during the Exodus. It began this way...

Exodus 2:1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman,

Exodus 2:2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.

Exodus 2:3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

Exodus 2:4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Exodus 2:5 Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

Exodus 2:6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

Exodus 2:7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

Exodus 2:8 “Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother.

Exodus 2:9 Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

Exodus 2:10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

Is that not absolutely amazing how God worked these things out? Evidently Moses' parents had been able to keep him hidden for around three months and then Moses' mother, Jochebed, puts him in a basket in the river and has his sister, Miriam watching from a distance. And as Scripture says, Jochebed ended up being able to take care of her son and nurse him until he was older! I love the way commentator Roy L. Honeycutt put it...

"The unseen forces of God's providence overshadowed the life of Moses from the very beginning...(Jochebed)Nursing the infant established ethnic solidarity with the Hebrews, with whom it was more important for Moses to be linked than with the Egyptians."

Roy L. Jr. Honeycutt, "Exodus," in Genesis–Exodus, ed. Clifton J. Allen, Broadman Bible Commentary (Broadman Press, 1969), 324 and 325.

Now you may be thinking, Pastor Larry, that's a good story but what on earth does it have to do with me? Good question and I have a good answer for you!

### **You are known by God and God has a plan for you!**

I know that our theme for this year is Extraordinary God + Ordinary People = Transformed Lives! But our text says that Moses was no ordinary child, so how can we relate? Like this: You need to understand that God created you with unique talents, gifts, and abilities and that He created you in His very image! When you realize what an extraordinary thing that is, then you can understand that, like Moses, you were no ordinary child either! Because of our extraordinary God, we have been created to be extraordinary people and to accomplish extraordinary things and finding our identity in the fact that we are known by God transforms our leadership abilities!

Moses' parents didn't have to fear an earthly king because their Heavenly King had shown them that Moses was no ordinary child! In the same way, you don't have to fear earthly circumstances or earthly powers that may come against you because you have a Heavenly King who knows you and has a plan for You! You go from ordinary to extraordinary when you find your identity in the fact that you were created by God and in God's image and that means God knows you! And because He knows you He has an amazing plan for your life which includes transformed leadership! So let me give you some Scriptural evidence of this fact! John tells us this in his gospel...

John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

So you were made by God and that means God knows you whether you know Him or not!

Jeremiah said...

Jeremiah 12:3 Yet you know me, LORD; you see me and test my thoughts about you...

And one of the most amazing passages of Scripture about God knowing us is found in Psalm 139. I'm going to read several verses of this chapter because it establishes in a powerful way just how intimately God knows us! The Psalmist says...

Psalm 139:1 You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

Psalm 139:2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

Psalm 139:3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Psalm 139:4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

Psalm 139:5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Psalm 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

Psalm 139:8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Psalm 139:9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

Psalm 139:10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

Psalm 139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

Psalm 139:12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139:13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Is that not the most amazing passage of Scripture showing us how our identity is found in the fact that The Creator God of the entire universe knows everything about us because He created us in His very image! Jeremiah tells us what God says about His plans for us...

Jeremiah 29:11 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.

No matter your background God has a plan for you! You may not have been threatened by a king, but the events surrounding your entry into this world and your particular story is unique and God wants to use that in a unique way. You may have had a wonderful upbringing and homelife, and if you did God will use that in your life! You may have had a very dysfunctional family and some really difficult circumstances, but God can take those things and use them to make you stronger, better, wiser, and allow you to use that perspective to transform your leadership of others. Your empathy, concern, compassion and willingness to help others may be birthed in the struggles of your early years. You may be able to help someone who thinks there is no hope for them to see that yes there is hope for them because God loves them and has a plan for them! When we find our identity in being known by God, then we realize no matter how ordinary we may see ourselves, and no matter how weak and hopeless we are, we have an extraordinary God who wants to be our Heavenly Father and fulfill His plan for our lives. Understanding this leads to transformed leadership in the way we live our lives. God's Word says...

Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Romans 8:27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

That last verse is very important. "God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." What does this mean? God knows us and has a plan for us but we must choose to love Him and follow His calling and purpose for our lives. God will not force you to accept His love or His plan for your life. We have a decision to make and this takes to the second truth we find in our text about Moses...

## **2. Transformed Leadership happens when your identity is based in the fact that you know God!**

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Can you imagine the temptation for Moses to find his identity in the world? I mean he had been adopted into the most powerful family in Egypt and probably one of the most powerful in the world! While his fellow Hebrews were in slavery, Moses had all the amenities that come along with a life of luxury and privilege! Moses was forty years old when he was faced with a decision to continue living as an Egyptian or to take up the cause of his fellow Hebrews. As we read our story we will see that Moses had much to learn about Godly, transformed leadership. He had spent 40 years learning the ways of the Egyptians and God would use the circumstances of what we are about to read to take Moses to a place where he could be trained in a different way and where his leadership could be transformed. Moses was confronted with a huge decision: to continue living as a privileged Egyptian along with their pagan ways or take up the cause of his people and get to know the Hebrew God who was in fact the God of the Universe. And here's something you must remember: The Egyptians believed that Pharaoh was a God! So for 40 years Moses would have been indoctrinated to believe that his adoptive grandfather was a god! And can you imagine the ridicule that was heaped upon the Hebrews and the fact that they believed their God was the Creator God of the universe! Don't you know that the question had been posed: if the Hebrew God is really God then why are the Hebrews the slaves? With all of these things in mind Let's read what happened...

Exodus 2:11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.

Exodus 2:12 Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

As I said, Moses had spent 40 years learning the ungodly ways of the Egyptians. While God knew Moses fully, Moses was yet to fully know God and His ways and His plans. Moses just knew he saw injustice happening and he was troubled by it. However, he acted rashly, took matters into his own hands and took the life of the Egyptian who had been beating the Hebrew. The next day he seeks to exert leadership again when he sees two Hebrews fighting, and discovers leadership is not as easy as it looks.

Exodus 2:13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

Exodus 2:14 The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

Exodus 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

So Pharaoh had in fact found out and sought to kill Moses. He may have told his daughter something like this: "I should have never let you bring that Hebrew boy into my palace in the first place!" Regardless, Moses was afraid and fled to Midian which may have been several hundred miles away. Once again the commentator Roy Honeycutt, Jr. states an important truth...

"The statement 'Moses was afraid' gives a historic ring to the account of Moses' life, for he is not portrayed as the bold, heroic figure who could slay the Egyptian oppressor with never another thought. To the contrary, his very human quality is clearly portrayed in the fear which swept over him."

Roy L. Jr. Honeycutt, "Exodus," in Genesis–Exodus, ed. Clifton J. Allen, Broadman Bible Commentary (Broadman Press, 1969), 325.

So while it had been said of Moses that he was no ordinary child, he had fears like the rest of us! Moses was afraid and rightly so! One of the most powerful leaders on the planet wanted him killed. A leader that was believed by many to be a god, so there was no shortage of people who would have been willing to do the Pharaoh's bidding! So Moses flees to Midian. Moses had a lot to learn about God and as we will see, much of his learning and growth will occur in Midian. The important thing to note is that Moses had made his choice. He chose to follow God and take up the very righteous cause of the oppressed Hebrew people! Little did he know that he would one day become their leader and deliverer! Moses did not yet know that he would become so close to God and get to know God so well that he would later be called a friend of God! He didn't know all of those things, yet he chose to walk away from all that he had known. Once again it's quite remarkable to see what Moses walked away from as he decided to no longer be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. People in this world usually seek to find their identity in the things of this world! They look to things like power, prestige, position, and possessions! Moses had these things as an adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter and yet he walked away from all of this to side with his people and their God! God was truly working in Moses' life and calling him and drawing him and he responded. Why do I believe that? Because our text says...

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Moses was placing his faith in the God of the Hebrews, Yahweh God, Creator God, and he was no longer going to look to his worldly status to find his identity or his authority to be a leader! But as I said, Moses still had a lot to learn about God! He was just beginning his journey and the first stop was Midian where he sat down by a well. Let's pick up the story...

Exodus 2:16 Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock.

Exodus 2:17 Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

It is obvious that God had given Moses some leadership abilities from the start and he sees a need and handles things! Ends up that Moses becomes good friends with that priest, Jethro, goes to work for him, marries one of his daughters and has a son. So God provides Moses with a wife, a son and a job. This highlights the fact that God knew Moses, had a plan for his life and because Moses chose to follow God, that plan was becoming reality. A part of that plan for Moses had to do with God's concern for the Israelites and His desire to deliver them from their slavery. So here's what happens next...

Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Exodus 3:2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Exodus 3:3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

Exodus 3:4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

Exodus 3:5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Exodus 3:6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3:7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

Exodus 3:8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

Exodus 3:9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

Exodus 3:10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Exodus 3:12 And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

What happens here is God reminds Moses that his identity is found in his relationship with God and the deliverance of His people would not rest on Moses' power or strength, but upon God's! God would use Moses in a powerful way, but in the end, Moses' identity and his power were from God! Having said that, I want to ask you this question: Where do you find your identity? Is it in your power, prestige, position, and possessions. And there's other things people of the world look to in order to find their identity: career, promotions, awards, talent, performance, popularity, intellect, knowledge, sexuality, politics. And the list could go on and on. But here's the scary thing: Where you find your identity or what you find your identity in usually ends up being your god! Why do I say that? Because where you find your identity will be the place you spend the majority of your time, effort, energy and resources! And here's a sad thing: When you find your identity in the world, you will always have to earn that identity, and work to keep it. And when you don't measure up, the world will take away your identity! They will turn on you so quickly it'll make your head spin! Think about it: Career, fame, fortune, popularity, awards, power, prestige, possessions, position. You have to earn those things and then you have to fight to keep them!

But when you trust God as your King and find your identity in him you know He is with you and has your best interest at heart and you don't have to compete for or earn His love or approval because you know He loves you! You just have to accept His love, His mercy, His grace, His forgiveness and His guidance! He created you and has a plan for your life and He promises to never leave you or forsake you! But like Moses you have a choice! God knows you, created you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Now it's your choice to get to know God and God has given each person the opportunity to get to know Him. Paul the Apostle said this in his letter to Titus...

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

So God offers salvation to all people. Everyone has the opportunity to find their identity as a child of God and can get to know God personally. And if we accept that grace and that love God offers to us, our leadership in living a righteous life is transformed into reality.

Paul told Timothy...

2 Timothy 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

2 Timothy 1:10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:11 And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

2 Timothy 1:12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

Once you know God you have the opportunity to trust God's plan for your life! Because God knows you and has a plan for you and you know God and have chosen to follow that plan, people will know you to be a person of God and can trust your leadership!

Accepting that you are known by God, refusing to be known by anything else, and getting to know God personally allows you to find a lasting identity! An identity that is comforting, encouraging, and even powerful! And when you realize you are not only known by God, but loved by God, you want to live for Him and do good and live righteously! Not to earn His love but because of His love! And if you mess up you know He will forgive you but you get to a place you are grieved when you sin because you know how much it hurts God and the cost Jesus had to pay to forgive that sin, so you seek His strength and power to live victoriously for His glory and honor!! But that's next week's sermon so let me end with this:

When you're a child of the King of Kings, you don't have to fear an earthly king! Your identity in Christ means that he is your provider, your shepherd, your protector, your comforter, your defender, your shield, and your fortress. How many times have people said of their earthly dads "do you know who my daddy is?" Kids appeal to this sometimes on the playground! And sometimes people try to use their parental connections when they get in trouble with the law. Typically doesn't work, but people still try to use it. But in the spiritual realm, it really makes a difference!

When Satan comes at me with temptations, or threats, I just say "do you know who my daddy is?"

James put it this way...

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

This morning, we are going to have to observe the Lord's Supper and talk about a wonderful way to end a worship service on identity. When we take the bread and the juice we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made for us so we could be clothed in His righteousness and find our identity as a child of God. If you've made that decision to accept that God knows you, loves you and has made a way for you to get to know Him through the Cross then I invite you to go to one of the tables and get a cup of juice and a piece of bread. If you've never accepted Jesus as your Savior, just admit you've sinned and need a Savior, believe Jesus died to be that Savior and commit your life to Him by calling on His name in prayer as you make your way to the tables! If you will take the bread and the juice back to your seats. I will lead us to take the bread and cup together once everyone is back in their seats. The praise band will lead us in worship as we head to the tables.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,

1 Corinthians 11:24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let's pray!