

Series: Facing the Giants

WHEN YOU LOOK UP – LOOK A LITTLE HIGHER EXODUS 2:11-3:17

Text: Exodus 2:11-15

Introduction:

A man once bought a horse from a missionary. The missionary told the buyer, "There is a special thing about this horse. You have to say 'Thank God' to make it go and 'Amen' to make it stop. "Not paying much attention, the man replied, "Sure, OK." So he got on the horse and said, "Thank God" and the horse started walking. Then he said, "Thank God, thank God, " and the horse started trotting. Feeling really brave, the man said, "Thank God, thank God, thank God, thank God, thank God" and the horse just took off. Pretty soon he saw a cliff coming up and he did everything he could to make the horse stop. "Whoa, stop, hold on!!!!" Finally he remembered, "Amen!" The horse stopped four inches from the cliff. The man leaned back in the saddle and said, "Thank God!"

Sometimes when it comes to facing the giants of life we just don't know what to say or what to do. Moses had to learn that when we fight the giants of life we need to learn where to look before we learn what to do

or say.

Note:

1. MOSES LOOKED (EXODUS 2:11-14)

Exodus 2:11-14

¹¹ And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹² And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand. ¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?

¹⁴ And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

A. Moses Began With His Own Perspective

He had been trained to look at things from the world's point of view all of his life.

Acts 7:22

²² And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

The wisdom of the Egyptians would have included all of their sciences, philosophies, and religion. Moses also was mighty in words and deeds. The historian Josephus wrote that Moses was a general in Pharaoh's army and led in a great military victory against the Ethiopians. In the eyes of others and probably in his own eyes, Moses was a great man.

As great a man as Moses was, those strengths were also his weaknesses. His upbringing blinded him to a giant beyond his imagination. The giant was Egypt and he was a part of it! This reminds us that God is very selective in using people with great natural abilities because those abilities so often get in the way.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: ³¹ That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

B. Moses Became Aware of God's Perspective

Something happened when Moses turned forty that caused him to turn his eyes away from himself to God's people.

Exodus 2:11

¹¹ *And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren.*

Acts 7:23

²³ *And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.*

Moses went to visit with his people. He spent time with them and listened to the witness of God's Spirit. As a result, Moses chose to leave Egypt and identify with God's people.

Hebrews 11:24-27

²⁴ *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, 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 pleasures of sin for a season;* ²⁶ *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.* ²⁷ *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the*

wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Through God's eyes, Moses saw a giant of immense proportions. That Egyptian beating a Hebrew represented the whole nation of Egypt. It ruled the world and the Hebrews were helpless before it. Moses rightly saw the need to fight and kill that giant.

Acts 7:25

²⁵ *For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.*

Moses saw what God wanted done but now he needed to learn to do those things God's way. Because Moses didn't understand God's ways he tried to fight that giant his way.

Two great principles can be seen in this passage:

- We must learn to fight God's battles God's way

Israel was told to take the city of Jericho. They would take it by shouting rather than with swords and spears. Gideon was to take on the Midianites. God told him to do it with three hundred men with pitchers and trumpets. David would face Goliath but he would do it with a sling, five stones, and God.

- We must learn to fight God's battles in God's time

God was calling Moses to deliver His people but the time had not yet come. He was in a hurry to see things happen. God's ways and God's timing are important!

Note not only did Moses Look but also:

2. MOSES NEEDED TO LOOK HIGHER (EXODUS 2:15-3:17)

Exodus 2:15-3:17

¹⁵ Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well. ¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸ And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? ¹⁹ And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. ²⁰ And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. ²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. ²² And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said,

I have been a stranger in a strange land. ²³ *And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.* ²⁴ *And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.* ²⁵ *And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.* ¹ *Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.* ² *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.* ³ *And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.* ⁴ *And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.* ⁵ *And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.* ⁶ *Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.* ⁷ *And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;* ⁸ *And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring*

them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. ¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? ¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. ¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. ¹⁶ Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob,

appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: ¹⁷ And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

- He Had to Look Beyond His Problem

We are far too often focused on the giant we are fighting against rather than the God we are fighting for.

Joshua went to study the giant of Jericho but met the Captain of the Hosts of God's army.

Elisha prayed that his servant would see beyond the encamped armies of the enemy and see the army of God.

If Saul would have looked beyond and above Goliath he would have seen the God that David saw and trusted.

Moses had to come to know the great "I AM" before he could go back and fight the giant of Egypt.

When we face a giant in life, we need to stop and look to God. Remember the words of Hebrews 12:1-2:

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- He Had to Come Before the Lord

Moses had to learn some important lessons that only some time alone with God could teach. God saw a man who needed the real qualities it takes to fight God's battles so He sent Moses to the land of Midian for a forty year re-education program. There in Midian, Moses was taught two lessons we all need to learn.

A. Lesson of Submission

This former general of Egypt had to go and live under the authority of a shepherd (Exodus 2:16-22).

Exodus 2:16-22

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷ And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸ And when they came

to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? ¹⁹ And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. ²⁰ And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? why is it that ye have left the man? call him, that he may eat bread. ²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter. ²² And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

This man who had owned the riches of Egypt now worked by keeping someone else's sheep.

For forty long years God let Moses live on the backside of nowhere learning to be in submission. We cannot be used by God to fight His battles until we learn this lesson well! Often it isn't what we need to get to be a giant killer, it is what we need to give up. Moses needed some things removed from his life before God could use him. He needed his status and pride removed. He needed his ideas of how to do things removed. He needed his estimation of himself to be removed. What is there in your life that gets in the way of God doing His will through you?

Not only did he need to learn to lesson of submission but also:

B. Lesson of Revelation

Moses needed to look a little higher – He needed to see the God who was sending him to fight the giant of Egypt. He learned three great truths about God

- God Always Hears and Sees (vs. 2:23-25)

Exodus 2:23-25

²³ And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

- God Knows Where You Are All the Time (3:1-4)

Exodus 3:1-4

¹ Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. ² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. ⁴ And when the LORD saw that he

turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

We need to focus on who God is (3:5-15).

Exodus 3:5-15

⁵ And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. ⁶ Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷ And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; ⁸ And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. ¹¹ And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? ¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token

unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. ¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵ And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Close:

Remember: a giant is anything that stands between you and where God wants you to be. Whatever is standing in your way – look beyond it. Look a little higher and remember Who God is and what He has promised.