

## Moses' Friendship with God

A Special Topical Lesson

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### I. Introduction

a. Moses was a friend of God

i. Read **Exodus 33:1-11**

1. Moses went outside the camp to meet with God.
2. The pillar of cloud descended upon Moses' tent/tabernacle.
  - a. The cloud that had been leading them.
  - b. People rose and worshiped. It must have been an awesome site!
3. "Thus the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."

ii. There was something very special about Moses' relationship with God.

1. And we know from **Deuteronomy 18**, that God would raise up a prophet "like Moses" but even greater. (Jesus!)
2. Questions:
  - a. Is it possible for me to be friends with the Creator of the universe? What do I have in common with God?
  - b. Does He want to be my friend?
  - c. What does it mean to be God's friend?
  - d. What does this friendship look like?
  - e. Should I desire to be God's friend?
  - f. How do I have a friendship with God?

i. Read **John 13:12-15**

1. Jesus is our Lord and Teacher – "and rightly so!"

ii. Read **John 15:11-15**

1. "You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know

what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

g. A few answers:

i. Yes, Jesus/God desires us to be His friends.

1. And this is something Satan does not want for us!

ii. We are his friends if we do what He commands.

iii. But, what does this look like?

iv. How do we put these together: Lord, master, and friend? Many people struggle with this!

v. Helpful to see Moses’ example.

## II. Moses Feared God – Who was his Friend!

a. Read **Exodus 2:23-3:6**

i. God chooses Moses, who had previously killed an Egyptian and was not hiding out in the desert with a bunch of sheep.

1. I find this encouraging!

ii. Fear is an aspect of Moses’ relationship with God.

1. God is holy, set apart, to be honored.

2. “for he was afraid to look at God.”

iii. Read **Hebrews 12:18-29**

1. Moses greatly feared God

2. We are to fear God with a “godly fear”

3. We discuss the fear of God often, and recently a full lesson on the fear of God from **Psalms 34**, posted on our website.

a. Fear keeps us from sin. (God cares for us, does not want us to sin.)

b. There is a godly fear for those who desire to be God’s friend.

b. Some have an ungodly fear! Good to see what we are not talking about.

i. Read **Matthew 25:14-29**

1. The two righteous servants put their money to work. Result: “well done good and faithful servant, come share in the master’s joy”
2. The wicked, lazy servant: “I was afraid.”
3. An accurate picture of the Father will lead to obedience, carrying out His will and sharing in the Father’s joy!
  - a. Let us not project things on God that are false/untrue. That is Satan’s work, the Father of lies.

**III. Moses, God’s friend, Believed God was Merciful**

- a. Read **Exodus 3:7-10**
- b. God saw their affliction, heard their cries, knew their sorrow.
- c. Read **Deuteronomy 34:4-9**
  - i. Mercy and kindness of God, who is also to be feared with godly reverence and fear. Both/and.
  - ii. For many, this is difficult, but we must strive to hold onto both!

**IV. Moses is Honest with God**

- a. Here, Moses is wrestling with God’s command to go to Pharaoh and lead God’s people out of slavery.
- b. Read **Exodus 3:10-13**
  - i. Moses does not want to go to Pharaoh!
  - ii. Moses raises several questions and objections, very honest!
    1. Who am I to do this? (**vs. 11**)
    2. When I go to my people and say God is going to rescue us, what should I tell them your name is? (**3:14**)
    3. What if they don’t believe me? (**4:1**)
    4. I am not capable, weak in speech and slow of tongue. (**4:10**)
  - iii. Moses is really honest. Does not see this working out.
    1. (we know the ending – the great miracles and victory; Moses did not know this would happen!)

2. Jesus: “not my will, but yours be done” – also did not want to do God’s will. Worked it out with God.
- iv. God’s response – very patient!
  1. Review this on your own. God assures Him, explains what He is going to do, He will fulfill His promises, will work great miracles, has compassion on them.
  2. God gives Moses 3 signs
    - a. Power over the snake (Satan)
    - b. Power over leprosy (sin)
    - c. Turn water into blood (Jesus, water into wine)
  3. When Moses says “send someone else,” God becomes angry.
    - a. The God who desires our friendship, can be angry with us. Gives Moses more help (Aaron and great miracles through his wooden staff/cross).

**V. Moses, God’s Friend, is Faithful and Obedient.**

- a. “I will go and return to my brethren in Egypt.” (4:18)
  - i. Huge decision! Very terrifying to return to Egypt and Pharaoh.
  - ii. The things that are important to God, become faithful to Moses.
  - iii. “By faith [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” (Hebrews 11:27)
- b. I see an earlier act of obedience, perhaps led up to the bigger decision:
  - i. picks up the rod after it becomes a snake!
  - ii. Let’s be obedient in the small things, which will strengthen us to obey in the bigger things.
- c. Moses and Aaron appear before Pharaoh. (5:1)
  - i. How proud God must have been!
  - ii. Jesus: “You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:15)
- d. Moses is tested. Keeps returning to God.
  - i. Pharaoh ratchets up the punishment, things are getting worse!
  - ii. People revolt against Moses.

iii. Read **Exodus 5:22-6:9**

1. More honest dialogue with God.
2. God does not strike Moses down. Moses is God's friend!
3. God is patient. Tells Moses what is going to happen. Reminds Moses that He desires to rescue His people and what He will accomplish.
4. Moses obeys and begins working the miracles, praying and doing exactly what God tells him and he begins to see God's great power working all the plagues/signs.

e. Commands that show we are God's friends

- i. All of them! (Stuff we should not do. Also, things that He desires us to do, because they mean much to Him.)
- ii. **Matthew 25** – Sheep and the Goats.
  1. "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

iii. Read **Matthew 24:45-46**

1. A challenge to the brothers!
2. The faithful and wise servant is the one who feeds the household of God.
  - a. Cheeseburgers?
  - b. The Word of God! Spiritual food.
  - c. We are blessed to have a great teacher in Chuck. But, with this comes great expectation.
  - d. We need hundreds, thousands of great Bible teachers. We get to watch, listen, learn.
  - e. Every brother needs to be prepared to teach the scriptures on any given Sunday.
    - i. Not easy. We have jobs, family responsibilities. But, feeding God's household is important to God.
    - ii. Chris Traganos' example.
    - iii. Don't say I am weak in speech and slow in tongue! God will help you, give you the wisdom and words.

- iv. Maybe you have 1 talent, maybe 5, maybe 10.  
Doesn't matter. Just use what you have! That is  
all God expects.

- f. Hear the song of faithful/obedient Moses who sings about God
  - i. Read **Exodus 15:1-13**
  - ii. How Moses, God's friend, views God:
    - 1. His helper and shield
    - 2. A God to be glorified and exalted
    - 3. A God who can bring wars to nothing, destroy any enemy
    - 4. A God who redeems and rescues and protects His people.

## **VI. Moses Shares God's Heart of Love for... the Wicked**

- a. Moses comes down the mountain, and the people are worshipping the golden calf. God is ready to destroy them. Moses intercedes.
- b. Read **Exodus 32:11-14; 32:30-32**
  - i. Moses pleads with the Father to show mercy.
  - ii. Moses offers his own life for the people.
  - iii. Moses shares God's heart for the wicked
    - 1. Read **Matthew 5:38-48**
    - 2. Me: annoyed with the server (hyper, talking at me, not with me – like I used to be!)

## **VII. Moses, God's Friend, Desires to Know the Father**

- a. Read **Exodus 33:7-23**
- b. Moses meets with God and speaks with Him as a man speaks to his friend.
- c. Moses wants to see God more clearly. "Reveal Yourself to me!"
  - i. (He must not have seen God's face, even though he spoke with God as a friend speaks face-to-face!)
  - ii. God will not allow this, His face to be seen. Would have to kill Moses.
- d. Read **Exodus 34:29-35**
  - i. Moses continues to meet with God, and his face becomes radiant as they talk together.

- ii. A beautiful picture of God with His friend: God's glory is displayed in Moses' face, Moses has become like God, in countenance (and Spirit!)

## VIII. Conclusion

- a. Read **Matthew 17:1-8**
- b. Moses wants to see God's face. Now he gets to! Talking face-to-face with God's Son.
- c. Jesus' face shines like the sun, and His clothes are as white as the light, the glory of God.
- d. Peter, James, and John are terrified to be in the presence of God's glory.
- e. Jesus touches them and says, "Arise, and do not be afraid." (We have work to do!)
- f. God's voice comes down from a cloud: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
  - i. The fear of God and the great depth of the love of God, who calls us His sons and daughters. Both/And!
  - ii. **God wants us to be His friends! He has fully extended His friendship. Let's keep extending friendship to Him. Let's treasure our friendship with God.**
  - iii. May we follow Moses' example as God's friend, pointing us to our Lord Jesus, who was God's Son and friend.
    - 1. Godly fear
    - 2. Acknowledge and accept that God is merciful and full of compassion
    - 3. Let's be honest as we work through God's commands and the challenges we face in life.
    - 4. Let's be faithful and obedient, not just in avoiding sin, but in carrying out His wishes and desires to serve and help others.
    - 5. Let's share God's heart of compassion for the wicked and the lost, who do not know Him.
    - 6. Let us desire to know the Father. "Reveal yourself to me!"