

Ex 2:11-3:22- Moses is a murderer, then a fugitive. I wonder how he appeared to Zipporah. Was he mysterious? Did his Egyptian background make him appealing, as though she was getting something pretty special when she married him?

Don't know.

But Moses seems to have lived a life of privilege and must've been a real anomaly in the palace. His background wasn't a secret, yet he was apparently a mainstay in the Egyptian courts. Was his crime considered to be his great undoing?

I can't help but think that Moses considered himself to be pretty much "done" when he went to Midian. What's left? His position was lost, his own people didn't think that much of him? Now he's tending sheep and was probably thinking that this is where he would be for the remainder of his life.

What is the difference between the man in 2:13 and 3:11? Chapter 2 is a guy who's thinking pretty highly of himself. Chapter 3 is someone far more humble (see Numbers 12:3).

But here's the thing, there's a difference between being humble, in that you see yourself as a capable vessel in the context of what God chooses to do through you, and seeing yourself as a non-entity. In 4:14, God gets angry with Moses because he is asking the Lord to use someone else. I'm thinking at this point, a line has been crossed. Humility is an absence of ego. Cowardice is an absence of faith. Help me, Lord, to know the difference.

"My success so far has only been won by absolute indifference to my future career." Teddy Roosevelt (James Austin Wills, *The Letters and Speeches of Theodore Roosevelt*, New York, Billington and Sons, 1937, p111)

Ex 4 – 5 Once Moses' walking stick was used by God as a way to demonstrate the credibility of Moses being God's emissary, it is then referred to as God's walking stick (4:20).

Verse 24 and 25 shows that when God tells you to do something, even if it causes your wife to object, you answer to God first, then to your bride. This is a good incentive to make sure that you always make a point of encouraging your wife in the ways of the Lord so these kind of situations don't turn up.

Chapter five serves as a good reminder that just because God gives you an assignment, it doesn't mean you're going to succeed at first. Or, at least it means that God will accomplish the entire process which may include opposition and defeat.

Ex 5:22-7:25 – In chapter 3 when God first approaches Moses, He gives a general outline of what's going to happen. Moses is going to speak to Pharaoh, Pharaoh is going to balk, God will take that as His cue to unleash His miraculous Power and utterly decimate Egypt.

What He doesn't mention is the fact that Israelites are going to have to make bricks without straw. He doesn't mislead Moses, but He doesn't reveal how things are going to play out. Perhaps if Moses knew how the Israelites were going to despise him initially, he would've been even more hesitant.

The thing that I take away from all this is that while God may promise to do great things, that doesn't mean you won't have to endure the daily grind of the commonplace in order to get to the Promised Land of His blessing.

You're going to be muddy, you might even bleed a little, but even in the dirt and pain, there's a Divine spark to be discovered, celebrated and embraced. Because it's through that Power that you become the conduit for His grace and strength and you're able to discover His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Ex 8-9 – Here's where we start gearing up with the plagues.

Plague	Reference	Magicians' response
Nile turns into blood	Ex 7:20-24	They're able to do the same
Frogs	Ex 8:6-7	They're able to do the same
Gnats	Ex 8:16-18	They're not able to do it
Flies only in Egypt, not Goshen	Ex 8:20-23	Not even mentioned
All Egyptian farm animals are killed	Ex 9:2-5	Not even mentioned
Boils on people and animals, but only in Egypt ¹	Ex 9:8-12 ²	Couldn't even stand before Pharaoh. ³
Hail storm in Egypt, not Goshen	Ex 9:13-35	Verse 20: Some are beginning to fear the Lord
Locusts	Ex 10:1-18	Let the people go...Pharaoh wouldn't let the women and children go.
Darkness for three days	Ex 10:21	Everyone can go, but the flocks must stay behind. Next time you see me, you will die.
Slaying of the first born	Ex 12:29-30	They were plundered by the Israelites.

Exodus 10-12 – The slaying of the first born was first mentioned in 4:23. Pharaoh has seen more than enough to know that the God of Moses is real and All Powerful. The slaying of the herds should've prompted him to submit to God's directive and, by so doing, spared the life of his own son. But Pharaoh refuses and therefore condemns his son to death.

Another thought: While the angel of the Lord would be patrolling Egyptian and putting to death all of the first born children, not even a dog would bark at any of the children of Israel. That shows you the distinction that God makes between those who acknowledge Him and those that do not.

The Passover is the first month of the year. It represents the starting point for the Jewish calendar and it makes sense in that it symbolizes the greatest deliverance – the deliverance from sin, though most thought of it as nothing more than the deliverance from an evil tyrant.

One last observation: Twice Pharaoh comes close to being obedient. In chapter 10, after the locusts, he says that everyone can go except the women and children. He even insists that Moses had not mentioned

everyone leaving before, which was a lie (5:3). Again, in chapter 10, verse 24, he says that everyone can go, but the livestock must remain behind.

Anything less than total obedience is disobedience.

Remember that!

Ex 12:14-13:16 – Verse 15 – "...or that person will be cut off from Israel." Take this seriously. Worshipping God and acknowledging Him is not to be engaged as a casual practice. Do it and do it right! Eat no yeast for seven days. Don't cheat, don't trip to slip one past because if you do, you're out the door!

Verse 312 – Pharaoh asked Moses to bless him. I doubt he had any real affection for Moses at the time, but this indicates the fact that he knew what was what when it came to the things of God.

There's so much symbolism contained within the Passover feast that foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ:

No yeast (v 39) – 1 Corinthians 5:6-8...

6Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? 7Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

Another thing to consider, according to Matthew Henry, is that you're not to allow your appetites to distract you from being obedient to God. Leavened bread tastes better than unleavened, but should God tell you to move and you delay because you want to cater more to your palette than to your Savior, you've got a problem.

No foreigner (v 48) – you've got to be an insider to partake in Communion

No broken bones (v 46) – none of Christ's bones were broken

Firstborn male – (13:1)

In addition, the Passover, while it did provide a template for the redemptive work of Christ, it also served as a powerful reminder of Who God was / is and what He did in the deliverance of Israel (13:14-16).