

I. COMFORTING THE HURTING

a. Welcome

Good evening. First, to each of you here tonight, I am sorry for this loss. For some of you – you are sad to say good-bye to our study of Moses. To others of you, you couldn't be more elated with joy. (Shame, shame.)

But in either case, this is an opportunity for us to celebrate the God of Moses as we reflect on Moses' life, his struggles, his growing faith, and what we've learned about him and his God over the past several months.

My job here today is to bring comfort, to honor Moses, and to provide hope for tomorrow – for while we are finishing this study, there will be other studies. So we come together this evening to find answers, we turn to scripture for God's truth, hope and promises for today and tomorrow.

b. Scripture

Psalms 90:1-4 ESV A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. (2) Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (3) You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!" (4) For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Psalms 99:6-9 ESV Moses and Aaron were among his priests ...They called to the LORD, and he answered them. (7) In the pillar of the cloud he spoke to them; they kept his testimonies and the statute that he gave them. (8) O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. (9) Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

c. Prayer

Almighty God, as Moses gave us the example to cry out to you – and you heard him – we speak to you today. Hear us and comfort us as we say good-bye to this study of the life of Moses. Amen.

d. Shared Memories

In a few minutes, we'd like to give you an opportunity to share a memory you had from our study of Moses. So as you reflect on his obituary, be thinking of the things you've learned from Moses' life and example.

II. HONORING MOSES

a. Moses' Obituary – from "The Pisgah Press"

Moses of the tribe of Levi was born in Egypt to the late Amram of Kohath and Jochebed of Levi. He was later adopted by the daughter of Pharaoh and raised as her son. He married Zipporah, daughter of Reuel, priest of Midian.

Growing Up.

His life could be divided into three portions – the first 40 of his life, the middle 40 years of his life, and the final 40 years of his life.

Birth to 40.

For the first 40 years of his life, he lived in Egypt during a time of great persecution of his people – young and old alike. He was hid by his mother for the first months and ultimately put in a woven basket and placed in the river, when he was found by Pharaoh's daughter. In an amazing turn of events, Moses was returned to his biological parents, who raised the boy for Pharaoh's daughter. At the appropriate time, He was later given to his adoptive mother, where he was raised and educated in all the ways of Egypt.

Many believe that Moses was a military leader and heir to the throne of Egypt. However, during an altercation (where he killed an Egyptian who was beating on a Hebrew) he fled for his life.

40 to 80.

During the next stage of his life Moses lived in Midian, where he tended to his father-in-law's sheep. Here he was married and had two children. It was during this wandering time of his life that he heard from God at the burning bush. It was an encounter that changed his life – and the history of Israel – forever.

80 to 120.

It is the final 40 years of his life that we spent the most time. It was during this time that he confronted Pharaoh, played a part in the 10 plagues, led Israel out of Egypt, crossed the Red Sea, met with God, and stood between God and the ever-gripping nation of Israel. For all that he did trying to connect the people of Israel to the one-true God, they never did seem to get it. As a result of their sin, judgment was rendered, and of the adults traveling to the Promise Land, all but Moses, Joshua and Caleb died in the wilderness, having never seen the land they were seeking. Even Moses was

excluded from going into the land, but God, in His infinite mercy, allowed Moses to see the land of promise before his death.

Recreation.

For fun I'd like to think that Moses enjoyed weaving baskets, sticking up for Israelites, and striking rocks he was supposed to "speak to." He liked 40-day sojourns on the mountain, and promising amazing things that God would ultimately do.

He is remembered most for leading the children of Israel out of Egypt – something no one thought could be done. He is also known for training his replacement, Joshua, the son of Nun.

At the time of his death, his eye was undimmed, and his vigor unwavering.

Family. Although there is later reference to both of his boys, it is unclear how many of his family were alive at his death since most died in the 40 years in the desert. However, his family included:

- At least one Wife: Zipporah
- Two sons – Gershom and Eliezer
- Nephews - Eleazar and Ithamar
- Preceded in death by his natural parents, his adoptive mother, his sister, Miriam, and his brother, Aaron, as well as Aaron's two sons, Nadab and Abihu; as well as a lot of friends who died in the desert.

b. Memories from Your Pastor

i. One thing that strikes me about Moses was his love of the people. How many times did he stand as a mediator between Holy God and sinful Israel? Many, many times. Since Moses is a picture of Christ, it makes me wonder how many times Christ stands between Holy God and sinful Glen – and I don't even realize it. What a picture and reminder for us all.

c. **Shared Memories.** That represents the Obituary, but there are certainly other memories you have of Moses. So I invite you to share now.

- i. What did you learn about following God from the life of Moses?
- ii. Considering his trials, how does Moses' life encourage you?

- iii. Hebrews tells us that faith is the "evidence of things hoped for, the substance of things not yet seen." How did you see Moses' faith grow during the course of his life? (Consider his life in Egypt, leading the sheep, and the various challenges while leading the children of Israel.)
- iv. *After everyone has had a chance to share, conclude this section with these words:*

"And so it was on Mount Nebo, at the top of Pisgah, that Moses, at the age of 120 years old, died and was buried by the Lord his God."

III. HOPE FOR TOMORROW – A Man of Faith

As we talk about the faith of Moses, let's reflect on Hebrews 11.

Hebrews 11:23-28 ESV

(23) By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

- Don't forget about his parents' faith. Their faith certainly played a part in the growing faith of Moses.
- What role does your faith play in the lives of your children – young or old?
- What evidence is there that they are growing in their own faith in God rather than simply riding on your faith in God?

(24) By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, (25) choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. (26) He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

- Over the past year, how has your faith encouraged you to choose following God – even if it meant being mistreated?
- What rewards are you seeking? (Just because we want to say "Jesus," doesn't mean that we are really seeking Him. Evaluate how you spent the last week. Those are the things you are really seeking.)

(27) By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

- Quote: "God is who He says He is and He'll do everything He says He will do."
- How did Moses shift his priorities following his encounter with God?
- Why did Moses do that?

(28) By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

Closing.

2 Timothy 4:5-8 ESV As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (6) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Today, I encourage you with these same words.

CLOSING

Prayer

Father, thank you for the life of Moses. Thank you for recording it for us to learn, to grow, and to change. As you grew Moses' faith, we ask that you would grow our faith, too. May we not look back at the end of our lives only to say that our faith has remained the same from salvation to death. Forgive us for the times we question your call, hesitate at accepting your provisions, and act in a way that is inconsistent with your instructions. Guide us to always fight the good fight, to finish the race, to keep the faith. As we keep our eyes on you and the promise of the hope and crown that awaits us when we see you face to face. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

This concludes today's service. Go in peace, and may the God Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses change you and me for His glory. You are dismissed.