



RUNNING WITH THE GIANTS

Moses

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Discussion Notes

The Crossing Church

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OPENING

This week we are continuing a series called “Running with the Giants.” The idea for this series comes from the Book of Hebrews where the author gives a long list of people who were giants in the faith. The race of life is a constant challenge, but we don’t have to run it alone. Now we are looking at the lives of biblical giants who ran with endurance and faith, and used their stories to build our own. This summer, we will be running with giants and discovering inspiration for our own journeys. We have these giants of the Bible who have gone before us, sharing their life lessons and help keep us from making the same mistakes.

SCRIPTURE¹

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Exodus 3:7-10 The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard their crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 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. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 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 the Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

Exodus 3:13-14 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I Am who I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Exodus 4:10 Moses said to the Lord, “O, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.”

Exodus 4:13 But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.”

2 Corinthians 3:5 It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.

Psalms 139:17-18 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

OBSERVATION

So Moses is our giant for this week. That’s no surprise to us, is it? Imagine that this magnificent man of the Old Testament is running alongside us this week – what can we learn from him? He led the Israelites out of Egypt after standing up to the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt, and taught them about God for forty years in the desert! That’s who he was. He wasn’t a failure so he must have many words of wisdom to pass

¹ All scripture is NIV unless otherwise indicated



along to us, right? Well, scripture tells us he was the son of slaves in a foreign land, he was a murderer, he was a shepherd over another man's sheep, he was a stutterer, he had a poor self-image, and he lacked self-confidence. He identified himself by three little words like "I am ineloquent," and "I am ignorant," and "I am a failure." For these reasons he has much to teach us.

Question: What do you believe Moses can teach you from his life? What is he telling you about pursuing perfection? In what ways do you see yourself as Moses saw himself?

APPLICATION

Failure is an experience we have all had. It comes to us in many circumstances. It may be in the area of character or parenting or careers or finance or decision-making. The possibilities are endless. As a result, we condemn ourselves by changing our identities. For example, we go from saying, "I am confident" to "I'm an idiot." We identify ourselves by three little words and they are not complimentary.

Question: When failure comes, with what three words do you condemn yourself? How do you feel when you use these words?

Those third words can take us from being used by God in all that He desires and wants from us, to a person pushing him/herself further away from God. For example, in a failed marriage, one may say, "I am a failure as a spouse." Or an addict may say, "I am an incapable." Or a parent may think, "I am stupid." These responses to failures are unhealthy and painful and unproductive.

Question: What words have you allowed others to say about you that you haven't been able to let go? Do you believe them to be true?

God says about Himself, "I AM that I AM." His third word is implied – it is EVERYTHING! And He is willing that we should take on all that He is to overcome the negative identities we have ascribed to ourselves. With His help we can let go of the past and grab hold of the destiny He has planned for us. If we don't, our pasts will keep us from being fully alive and thriving. We can't let our biggest mistakes define who we are and rob us of all God has for us to do and be.

Question: Tell us about a time when you experienced a major defeat or failure. How did you complete the phrase, "I am _____."? Why?

Question: With what other biblical people do you compare yourself? Why did you choose them?

God doesn't think of us as failures, losers, worthless, pathetic, etc. He thinks of us as precious! And He qualifies and empowers us to do so much more than we can think or imagine.

Question: What, in your wildest imaginings, are you hoping God will empower you to do?

We need to change our thinking to "I know I am qualified because I know I AM." "I know I am wise because I know I AM." "I know I am confident because I know I AM." "I know I am worthy because I know I AM."

Question: When are you going to quit trying to be perfect and rely on being loved, with all of your imperfections, by I AM.

Question: When will you stop labeling yourself and start letting God do whatever He wants to do in and through and with you?

Question: As Moses runs alongside you, what is he whispering in your ear?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to find our identities in You. Your mighty power within us creates new third words – Son, Daughter, Child, Loved One, Servant, and Elect, all because of Your love for us. We need to internalize them and go forward with confidence. In Jesus' name. Amen.