

## BFF310 Moses on the Mount

**Scott Moore:** Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore, thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. Greetings and salutations. How are you today?

**Steve:** Greetings and salutations is from "Charlotte's Web." That's a spider greeting.

**Scott:** It's a sad movie.

**Steve:** It is, but it was one of the first movies that my son's ever watched because we didn't have a television until my oldest was mid-teens. Our local library had some 16-mm movies and a projector, which they would loan out for free. They only had two movies: Rikki Tiki Tavi and Charlotte's Web.

**Scott:** Two classics, I must say.

**Steve:** Especially when you are starved for anything resembling a movie.

Let's pray. Thank you Father for all the little bright spots in our lives. Thank you for how fun that was with our family watching those movies. We're drawing near to you today. We're seeking you afresh. We're believing in you. We're making you know that we love you. We love your plan. We love your heart for this world that we live in.

I pray that you'll give us some food for our heart and mind and spirit today that will inspire us and encourage us and bring us closer to you in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Steve:** Last time we talked about David, who has played such a tremendous influence in my life. He wrote about being in God's presence in Psalm 100 and in Psalm 27. When I read Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." I think of David and Moses.

These men needed God in ways that most of us will never comprehend. Both of them were alone. David was alone in the fields tending the sheep. The youngest child, who was looked over. Yet He used this opportunity, alone in the Judean hills, to draw near to God.

God was a very present help for him, not only when he was alone in the fields, but when he was facing Goliath, when he was escaping the wrath of Saul, and fighting the enemies on the field of battle. David knew that God was a refuge of strength.

Moses also did. I'm reading in Exodus in my Bible reading for this year. I just read how miraculous it was that Miriam connected him with Pharaoh's daughter. Then his mom gets paid to raise him. It's a little aside that I noticed for the first time yesterday. His mom thought she was losing her son when she put him in this little straw basket. Next thing you know, he is back in her arms again, and he's being raised by Pharaoh's daughter. As we know from scripture, as a man he found himself alone on a mountain in the wilderness. He became a shepherd, just like David. God proved a very present help for him then.

As I've looked over David's life, I could see how his training as a shepherd prepared him for his kingship. The same is true with Moses, who spent 40 years in the wilderness taking care of animals. That is not a fun occupation. If you ever raised sheep, goats, or cows.

**Scott:** I've taken care of a few cats and a dog. My dog was enough work that it felt like 40 years. I've never taken care of any farm animals. No.

**Steve:** Well, I did. We were a homeschooling family back in the '80s. As I said, we didn't have a television, and I'm a city boy. I grew up in suburbia. I grew up with lawnmowers on Saturday mornings, streetlights in the evening, and cars going by at all hours of the night. I liked it.

We moved to the country to work with a church. We lived in the parsonage that was remote. I had a long time getting used to darkness and quiet. We wanted our boys to grow up with a well-rounded life, so we acquired some goats. What do you know about goats?

**Scott:** They eat anything and everything and do their business wherever they want.

**Steve:** OK. It's not much of a sales pitch. We raised goats and those little kids, the baby goats, were adorable. It turned out the female goats were really nice pets. The males were gross, but all in all they were wonderful.

I learned that I wasn't a gentle shepherd. I would get very frustrated. I worked hard to make them a nice pen, bought the right hay, and tasty feed. Those stupid goats, I had to drag them in at night. I had to get behind them and shoo them in with a worn out broom and a handful of rocks.

I mean, they were not appreciative of all of my efforts. At one point, I picked up one of those goats and threw him into his pen. I thought, "I don't think I have much of a shepherd heart, I need help."

Having animals can be very trying but to care for them 40 years in the wilderness, trying to find pasture, trying to find water, trying to find a place where you could protect them at night from all of the predators is a hard life.

Yet while he's out there in God's training ground he sees a burning bush, and turned aside to meet God on the mountain. This set the tone for Moses' life.

Abraham had his part to play in God's plan. Adam had his part to play in God's plan. Isaac had his part to play. Jacob/Israel, father of these 12 tribes which are now in Egypt and they're crying out to God for deliverance and God has carefully trained and prepared his man, Moses.

He prepared him in Pharaoh's home. He prepared him for 40 years in the wilderness leading a million people, by spending 40 years caring for animals. This is the school of hard knocks. Finally God talks to this man face to face, as a friend.

In fact, he was so much in God's presence, "That it shone all over his face." Exodus 34, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand. As he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

**Scott:** It touches my heart.

**Steve:** Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses and beheld the skin of his face shining. They were afraid to come near him.

Moses called to them. Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him. Moses talked with them. Afterward, all the people of Israel came near and he commanded them all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

Whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he would remove the veil until he came out. When he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. Moses would put the veil over his face again until he went in to speak with them.

Paul builds on this dynamic in 2 Corinthians 3:13, "Whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." And all of us who have turned to the Lord, see God in ways that we had never seen before.

Moses needed to talk to God because he was the one that you might say codified what it meant to be an Israelite. He's the one that not only led these people out of Egypt with incredible signs, wonders, and mighty deeds, but he's the one that formed them into the nation. He gave them the law, he set apart the Levites.

The biggest thing, of course, we've been talking about is, he saw on the mountain how to build a tabernacle. God would be coming down from the mountain and living among them in the tent of meeting in the tabernacle.

Jesus spoke of Moses several times. Luke 24:27, this is Him talking to the two men on the road to Emmaus, beginning with Moses and with all the prophets. He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the scriptures. I assume that Jesus talked about the tabernacle.

Luke 24:44, He said to them, "These are My words, which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about me in the Law of Moses and the prophets and the Psalms, must be fulfilled."

Jesus' life was dictated by what God had poured through Moses and the prophets, David, and the psalmists. All these things that He had spoken about in scripture, Jesus came not to destroy them, He came to fulfill them. He came to fulfill them to the latter.

Moses appeared in Matthew 17. After six days, Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and His clothes became widest light.

Behold, there appeared to them, Moses and Elijah talking with Him. They didn't have illustrated bibles back in the day. They didn't have YouTube videos. I've wondered, "How did they know that was Moses and Elijah?" I don't know. However Peter, James, and John, knew, "Hey, that's Moses." "Hey, I see Elijah." "They're speaking with our Savior. They're talking with Jesus. Wow."

Let me go back a little bit to Deuteronomy, to speak about the Pentateuch, first five books of the Bible. Which as we know point to Christ.

**Deuteronomy 4:7-8**, "What great nation is there, that has a god so near to it, as Jehovah Our God is to us whenever we call upon Him. In what great nation is there that has statutes and rules, so righteous as all this law that I said before you today?"

What great laws the children of Israel had, what great statutes, what great ordinances. When they followed those laws, life went well with them. That's why God gave them to them. He says, "If you will obey my words. Oh, it will go well with you and with your children after you." He gave them great laws.

**John 1:17**, "The law was given through Moses. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The law was first. Jesus fulfilled the law and introduced grace."

**John 1:45**, "Philip found Nathaniel, and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'"

**John 3:14**, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up." There's so much that Moses did. This is one of the clearest. He lifted up that serpent and everybody that turned and looked at that serpent was healed of the serpent bites.

He said, "So must the Son of Man be lifted up, and as we turn and look to the Son of Man hanging on the cross, we too are healed of sin, death." **John 5:45 and 46**, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you, Moses, on whom you have set your hope. For if you believed Moses, you will believe Me. For he wrote of Me."

There are 31 books in the Bible where Moses is mentioned 852 times. 19 of those 31 books are in the Old Testament 12 are in the New Testament.

I noticed another parallel between Moses and David. In **John 2:17**, His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me" after Jesus came in and cleansed the temple?

Up to this point, Jesus had verbally confronted the Pharisees and the Sadducees. He engaged in words, parables, and teaching. This time, He was turning over tables with a whip of cords.

His disciples remembered, "Zeal for your house will consume me," because it was God's house. Not because it was mortar and brick, but because it was God's house. This is His father's house. The scripture being quoted is Psalm 69:9, where David writes, "Zeal for your house has consumed me."

When you think about, just a little bit, David, as much as he loves God, also loved God's temple. God said, "No, you can't build it. Your son Solomon will build it." Then, David, to the end of his life, prepared by storing money and materials for the temple. He acquired huge masses of gold, silver, wood, and stones and whatever they needed. He was setting it aside so that when Solomon went to build it, he would have what he needed. David was shown the pattern of the temple and he passed that on to Solomon.

As for Moses, Exodus 25 says, "Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you should make it."

A few verses later, same chapter, "See that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain." Moses saw it. He had a glimpse of the heavenly reality. He was directed, "Make it on earth as it is in heaven."

I chose that phrase, from the Lord's Prayer. This is what we are asking God to do when we pray that prayer. This is what we continue to do. We want God's will to be done on earth just as it is in heaven. We want his kingdom to come on earth just as it is in heaven.

Moses started this principle of creating on earth what is already established in heaven. In Numbers chapter 8, and Acts 7:44, we read: "Our fathers had the tent of wilderness and the tent to witness in the wilderness, just as He who spoke to Moses directed him to make it according to the pattern that he has seen.

In Hebrews 8:5, "they serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things."

When Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

David had a passion, a zeal that consumed him for the temple. Moses had a zeal and a passion for the tabernacle. Jesus shared that with both of them, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

There are many parallels between Moses, David, and Jesus, such as their love for God. David spent time in God's presence, which is very clear from Psalm 100 and Psalm 27. Moses, we know spent years in the presence of God, the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, the pillar of fire would appear. God would commune with Moses face to face. We know that Jesus was God in the flesh, Jesus was the Son of God.

Next week we will return to studying more about the tabernacle, and looking for Jesus in every aspect of this tent of witness. I think it's helpful to get a little background on these men, Moses and David, that have contributed so much to our studies so far.

**Scott:** Amen. I find myself thinking when I'm reading the description of the temple. I wish there was a good depiction of that, a video that walks you through and shows you all this stuff. Because when they talk about the wingspan of the things in the pillars and all that that stuff. I'm like, "I would love to see this for real."

**Steve:** You'll have to come out the Lancaster with your family some time and we'll take you to the tabernacle at the Mennonite Historical Society, just a little bit east of town. They have a life-size reproduction of the tabernacle.

**Scott:** Wow.

**Steve:** When you pull into the parking lot, you can see the linen outside curtains all the way around. Then you see the bronze altar in the courtyard with the basin, which we're going to cover next time.

Then you go inside the building where they have the tent -- the tabernacle itself, with the Holy of Holies, and the most holy place. They have incense going and they have tours. It's fascinating.

**Scott:** Oh, that'd be cool.

**Steve:** When my sons were younger and we were reading through the book of Exodus, I said, "Let's have a family field trip." We took part of a day and went through it and it did give a wonderful depiction of all of these things. I think there's a little bit of room for interpretation of a couple of things but most of it is really helpful.

It does make a huge difference having a replica to visualize what it may have looked like. The way that everything is laid out is a sermon in itself. As the Israelites came in and offered their sacrifices, they saw beyond the altar a tent.

**Steve:** I noticed reference to the tabernacle as I was reading in the New Testament. Jesus was talking to the people that were getting after his disciples for eating some wheat from the fields on the Sabbath. He replied, "Don't you remember how David ate the show bread that was reserved for the priests?"

He's referencing David going back to the tabernacle where the priests have been making the showbread, which we haven't talked about yet -- that's coming up. David knew these things. Jesus knew these things. This was part of the warp and woof of the Hebrew culture. You find it as you read throughout the Bible.

**Steve:** Let's wrap our time up in prayer.

Father, thank you for this man, Moses. This man who walked and talked with God. Thank you for your preparation for him. Many of us had felt that 40 years of being in the wilderness and feel like, "What are we doing?" We're just laying down our lives

down for our children. We're laying our lives down for our neighbors, our church, and we don't see the really good fruit.

I'm sure Moses was tempted to not see the fruit, but you were fastening him, you were working in his heart things that would impact us and it would impact us eternally. Thank you for what you did in and through Moses and David.

Thank you for them being used of God to reveal Jesus because He is the one that we want to see that we are seeing in your word. Bless us today as we go about our duties, perhaps taking care of dumb sheep and goats or whatever it is, help us to do it well and to your glory, in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Scott:** Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Family Faiths podcast with Steve Demme. If you have any questions for the show, email Steve at [spdemme@gmail.com](mailto:spdemme@gmail.com).