



MARCH 2018

PORTLAND CENTRAL NAZARENE CHURCH

That's messed up!

Life doesn't always go the way we want and people don't always act how we want. Life just isn't perfect. Moses experienced some messed up situations. He was a great man and a great leader who is still revered by many today. He led thousands out of slavery, stood in front of one of the most powerful world leaders, and intervened for God's people on more than one occasion. But, his life and his leadership were not always easy. He faced many difficult situations, some of them pretty messed up, which makes him the perfect person to learn from when it comes to facing, and moving through, some of our difficult (messed up) times in life.

The following thoughts come from the life of Moses. Hopefully they can be an encouragement in those times when you throw your hands up and say, "that's just messed up" and a challenge to make the right choices and keep your faith in God so as to find yourself in less difficult times. God led Moses and He will lead you too.

A big thank you to Pastor Ryan Barker, Jessica Barker, and Kylie Johnson for contributing their thoughts on Moses.

- Jessica just started a new Sunday School class on the book of John, you should check it out Sunday!
- Kylie is working hard in her degree program at Multnomah University and is pursuing her calling into the ministry - keep her in your prayers!
- Pastor Ryan leads our youth ministry.

Praying you find strength and encouragement for whatever situation you might find yourself in these days!

Pastor Matt

EXODUS

Intervene in the Messed Up

Exodus 2:15-22

When was the last time you witnessed someone being bullied or an injustice being done? In this passage a group of young ladies were just trying to get some water and a group of shepherds came and tried to bully them out of the way. Then Moses showed up. On more than one occasion Moses can be found standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Moses intervened for these ladies in this messed up situation. It led to his being blessed with a wife and dinner.

There is a pretty good chance that at some point in life we will be a witness to a messed up situation and what will our response be?

Will we give a voice to the one that has no voice?

When we stand against injustice (messed up things) we will not always be rewarded like Moses was, but in the end we are not doing for the reward are we?

Aren't we doing it because it is simply the right thing to do?

Is God Listening?

Exodus 3:1-9

Does God even know how messed up my situation is? Sometimes it seems like it takes a long time for God to notice. I know the Hebrew people certainly felt that way, they had been held in slavery for a very long time at this point. But, God reminds Moses, through a burning bush, that He is very much aware of their messed up situation and He knows how bad it is. He has not forgotten about them, He has heard their cries.

God has not forgotten about you, or anyone in the world. He knows the situations we are in and He cares. Remember, the messed up things in life were not part of the good God created, they are a result of the fall. God will, one day, redeem us from that and lead us to the Promised Land. All we have to do is follow, as the Hebrews are about to learn.

Why do you think God spoke to Moses through a bush?

When was the last time you felt like God wasn't listening?

God told Moses He cared via a burning bush, how has God reminded you that He cares about you and your life?

Complaining About God's choice

Exodus 4

God called out to Moses and told him that he would speak to Pharaoh for God. Moses did not want to follow through with what God told him to do. He gave many different excuses for why he couldn't do what God told him to. Finally, God silenced all of Moses's arguments and sent him on his way.

Have you ever been in a situation where someone asked you to do something you didn't want to? Maybe it was your boss, your parents, or someone at church. How do you respond? Do you do what Moses did and complain until there is no complaint left? Do you give excuses until you're left in a corner? Or do you do what was asked of you?

How should we respond when people ask us to do difficult things, or tasks we don't want to do?

How should we respond when God asks us to do things we don't think we can, or don't want to do?

Should the responses be the same, or different?

How should Moses have responded?

It Got Worse

Exodus 5

Ever feel like you ask God for help in a messed up situation and that situation ends up getting worse instead of better? That is what happened to the Hebrew people. God sent Moses to lead them out of slavery, but it got worse for them before it got better. The labor got more intense and the persecution worsened. Those can be some very frustrating times. Moses even asked God, "what have you done?" It is important to note that in these moments God is not making the situation worse, the situation just got worse, the fight got more intense. God never walked away from them or gave up, He was right there even when things did not improve.

Why do you think our tough situations often get worse before they get better?

How can we draw even closer to God in those moments instead of pulling away from Him?

We must trust Him to see us through even if it gets harder.

Written By: Pastor Matt

Blamed for Something - Not My Fault

Exodus 16

When disasters strike our world, many people find someone to blame. They blame the President for a terrorist attack, hurricanes are blamed on Mother Nature, natural disasters are called by human names. How would you react if someone blamed you as the cause of a hurricane? What if someone told you that you caused them to be in poverty and starving?

Moses had a similar situation. When the Israelites started into the second month of being gone from Egypt, they turned to Moses and started complaining about food. *"If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. Instead, you brought us here into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!"* (Verse 3).

Moses did not bring the Israelites out into the wilderness. The Lord brought them out of Egypt. But the Israelites had to find someone to blame.

Instead of getting angry at the Israelites, Moses went to the Lord. He told them who really brought them out of Egypt, God, and what God was going to do for them.

How do you react when people wrongly blame you?

Do you calmly explain what really happened? Or do you explode in anger?

Do you let them blame you?

Do you go to God?

Doing Too Much

Exodus 18

Have you ever been overwhelmed by things that people have asked of you? Have you ever had too many people talking to you at once? What about having people ask you to help them solve all of their problems?

Moses knew this feeling all too well. When Jethro came and visited Moses, he knew that Moses was in over his head. So, Jethro offered Moses some advice, *"You should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating bribes. Place them over the people... they should judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you every important case, but judge every minor case themselves."* (verses 21-22). Moses had a choice, either listen to someone older and wiser than him, or continue doing what he was doing before.

Moses chose to listen to Jethro. Moses knew he was doing too much, and delegating some of it to other people made things easier for everyone in the end.

How do you handle similar situations?

Are you the kind of person who will do everything themselves? Or are you willing to partner with other people to get the job done?

Do you listen to the advice of the older and wiser? Or do you just remain doing what you are doing?

NUMBERS

That's Impossible

Numbers 1-2

In these chapters we find the numbering (hence the name "Numbers") of the children of Israel. God told Moses in chapter 1 to *"Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above-who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies."*

Has God ever given you a seemingly impossible task? God is telling Moses to count over 600,000 men! On top of this in chapter 2 God tells Moses that he has to organize the camps of the people surrounding the men in a specific way.

Many scholars put the total number of people that Moses was trying to organize at over 1.2 million. It can be difficult at times to get ourselves out of the door and on the way to work. Let alone the larger tasks that God has called us to.

However, in this task God does not leave Moses alone. To help Moses, God appointed men from each tribe to lead their respective groups. In our lives God gives us not only other people around us, but the Holy Spirit to encourage and lead us on our path. In John 14:16 Jesus says, *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever"*. The word Comforter is made up of two Greek words, *"Cum forte"*, these words mean "with strength". The Holy Spirit comes with strength for the work that God has called us to! Move forward in that strength!

What seemingly impossible task has God asked you to do?

What are the resources and people that He has provided for you to be able to accomplish that task?

The Aaronic Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "*Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them, "The Lord bless and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.'* So, they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

This is known as the Aaronic blessing and as Christians we have used it literally. As a Christian you literally are putting the name of Christ upon you. In Galatians 3:28 Paul writes, "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*" As a Christian you are a blood bought child of God that is bearing His name as you walk through this life. Do not be ashamed to be a Christian or to accept the blessings that God has put in your life. Accept the peace that He brings. Accept the joy that He gives. Accept His love.

What measure of peace has God given you in a stressful situation in the past?

Do you feel the gracious peace of God today?

What does Romans 15:13 have to say about this?

Decisions, Decisions

Numbers 9:1-10

In Numbers 5 we read that those who have been defiled by a corpse must be isolated from their fellow Israelites. For this isolation they were to be removed from the camp until they were considered ceremonially clean again. One of the marks of a good leader is willingness to follow God's direction if something unforeseen comes up.

In Numbers 9:1-10 we read directions from the God of Israel on the keeping of the Passover. The Passover was to mark the day that the Lord had spared the first born of Israel in Egypt during the final of the ten plagues. An unforeseen problem for Moses arose at this point. God had previously told Moses that those who had been defiled were not to be allowed into the camp. However, at this point God said that all of Israel was to keep the Passover in the specific way that He commanded them. There were some men who had been defiled by a corpse and were not able to present the offering that they were commanded to present because they were isolated outside of the camp.

What was Moses to do? He could have kept the specific words of the law that God had previously commanded him, or he could have simply done whatever he wanted. His answer is an example of the correct way of dealing with problems that arise when we are following Gods initial direction. He says, "*Stand still, that I may hear what the Lord will command concerning you.*" God's answer would go on to change the ability of Israelites to keep the Passover not only when they were defiled by a corpse but also traveling. Through the willingness of Moses to listen to the people and wait for Gods answer, the people were able to follow the direction of God.

Are you willing to wait for God to respond to the situation that you are facing?

Is there a direction that God sent you that He is wanting to adjust to fit the current circumstances?

Stop Complaining

Numbers 11

After leaving Mt Sinai the people began to grow weary of following God. As is often the case it was not an easy thing to do what God asks. This required uprooting their families and deconstructing their entire camp. The tabernacle would have to be packed up and moved and unpacked and reconstructed. Moving over a million people through the desert to an unknown location from a location that had provided what they needed would have created more than a few grumpy families.

When the people began to grumble they complained even about the food that God had provided for them in the desert. They said, "*We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!*" They had already forgotten that they were abused and mistreated, and their children were killed in Egypt. The provision of the Lord was no longer enough for them.

As would be the case with many leaders, Moses was frustrated. In his prayer to God for a way to deal with them he said, "*If you treat me like this, please kill me here and now...*" How many times has it seemed as though God has led you to a place and the cost has been too high? However, once again God did not abandon Moses. God brought up seventy men of Israel and put the same Spirit that He had given Moses to them. He said, "*they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.*" Once again God had given Moses what seemed like an impossible task. He was given a massive group of people who had grievances and complaints and Moses felt as if there was no hope. But God had a plan.

When was the last time you took an inventory of the resources God has given you to accomplish the task he has laid before you?

Are you doing something by yourself that God is willing to help spread the burden?

Our Reputation

Numbers 12

Numbers 12 is a passage in which we find the very core of Moses leadership team turning against him. Miriam and Aaron were not only his leadership team but his family. Aaron was who God gave Moses to help him speak to Pharaoh (Exodus 7). Miriam had set Moses into the river to escape death (Exodus 2) and led the Israelite women in dance and worship after crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 15).

This revolt of his most trusted leadership came because they disagreed with his marriage to an Ethiopian woman. The scripture doesn't tell us what Moses said in defense of himself. What it does tell us is the response of God. It begins with the accusations of Miriam and Aaron and then says, "*Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, 'Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!'*"

One of the most difficult things to do in life is to allow God to defend our reputation. When people are slandering you, or attacking your family, it is the most common response to rise to the situation. Here we see a very different response. God Himself defends Moses. He states that Moses has a unique relationship with God and that God reveals Himself to Moses "*face to face, even plainly and not in dark sayings*".

Hopefully you have not had your brother and sister turn against you. This is one of the most painful revolts that one can experience, and it is hard to imagine the feelings that he must have been going through at this time. However, Moses did not lash out and attack his brother and sister. He did not respond by calling them out on their bad behavior. His response was to allow God to speak for Him. He even calls out to God to heal his sister when she is struck with leprosy as punishment for her actions.

Is your response to accusations and attacks to lash out in return or to seek the guidance of God in order to respond as He would have you?

When are times that it is appropriate to respond and defend yourself?

Sinned Against Numbers 16

This is yet another chapter of revolutions against Moses. It begins with some two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation that God deals with and later spreads to "*all the congregation of the children of Israel*". They complain and gather against Moses and Aaron. In this moment God decides that it is time to take action against these people who no longer choose to follow His servant. He says, "*Go away from among this congregation that I may consume them in a moment*".

After all of the problems that Moses has had with the Israelite people it would not be that shocking for him to just do it. To say, "Ok God lets go find some people that are less angry, bitter, and foolish!" Instead of responding in this way however, Moses and Aaron fall on their faces before God. They take the necessary steps to make atonement for the people of Israel. God's open wrath is coming to the people and they stand in the gap. For people who a moment before were ready to come against them.

Considering this, how are we to respond when people sin against us? Should we respond in kind and do everything we can to punish them, or should we forgive those who sin against us? This is a picture of the steps that Jesus took for us. Romans 5:8 says, "*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

Jesus also tells the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:21-35. A servant owes more to his master than he can ever pay. He was brought before his master and forgiven the debt, but upon leaving went and demanded payment from one who owed him a mere fraction of what he had just been forgiven. Christ said in response to this, "*So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.*"

How have you been shown grace when you deserved punishment?

Is there anyone you are holding to a grudge against for a wrong done?

So Close

Numbers 26

Again, we come to the counting of those men twenty and older who can fight for Israel. There are still over six hundred thousand men who are counted not including women and children. God has again provided Moses with assistance in this massive task and not expected him to complete it alone. However, something has drastically changed in the people of Israel. Numbers 26:64 says, *"But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they numbered the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sinai."* The reason for this goes back to when the Israelites first came to the promised land. They sent 12 spies in and 10 of them returned saying that the land was too dangerous. The people agreed and were sent to wander in the desert for forty years. (Numbers 14). During this time all of those who refused to enter except Joshua and Caleb died according to what God had said.

For Moses this would have meant that every adult male he knew when they left Egypt (except two) were gone. Moses also knew that he would not be entering the promised land with this new generation and that he was only leading them up to the edge but would not enter (Numbers 20). The amount of loss that Moses had sustained up to this point did not deter him from his service to God. His call to lead the people had not come from them, but from God himself. The people had complained, rebelled, and revolted against his leadership and yet still he was obedient to God and led them to the land that God had prepared for them.

In our life serving God we will sustain loss. We will have plans that come right up to the point of fruition and fail to come through. What we do in the face of these situations is entirely dependent on our level of trust in God and His plan for our lives.

Will we choose to hold fast to the call that God has for us or will we choose to turn and flee?

What could you lose that would make you turn from God?

Is there something that God has asked you to do that requires you to let go of your comforts and/or expectations?

Written By: Pastor Ryan

DEUTERONOMY

Faith Hindered by Fear

Deuteronomy 1:21

Moses tells the Israelites, "*See, the Lord your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.*" The promise of the Lord was finally within the grasp of Moses and the Israelites. They had been set free of the bondage of Egypt, they had survived the harsh realities of the desert, and the land of abundance was finally within their grasp. They had no doubt that this was the fulfillment of God's promise and the last step was to "go up" and "take possession" of God's promise.

Throughout the Bible we see consistently that God rarely removes obstacles, instead He empowers His people and His leaders to overcome those obstacles. This is true no matter how "giant" the obstacles may seem. Philippians 4:13 tells us, "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*" The Israelites chose to stay in the desert rather than facing their challenge with courage and trusting that the Lord would strengthen them.

Nelson Mandela said, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." The Lord told the Israelites not to fear or be dismayed because He was with them and He had prepared a way for them. He is with you today and He has prepared a way in your life as well.

Where should the Israelites have found their courage?

How had God protected and provided for His people up to this point?

What obstacles stand between you and God's promise?

What fears in your life seem bigger than God's power?

What are 5 verses that show that we should not fear or be dismayed?

Faith Built by Belief

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

Deuteronomy starts with the story of Moses and the Israelites failing to take the promised land because of fear and being sent back to the desert to wander another 40 years. It ends with Moses passing the responsibility of leadership to Joshua. *"Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, 'Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; he will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed,"* (Deut. 31:7-8).

When I read this, I wonder if Moses is telling Joshua what he wishes he had told the people 40 years before when they stood in front of the Promised Land. The people were ruled by fear, but Moses wants Joshua to be guided by his belief in the Lord instead. Belief in the Lord comes from a deep respect based on who he is, what he has done, and what He can do. A strong belief can overcome fear and doubt. Moses tells Joshua not to be afraid because the Lord is with him, will not fail him, and will not forsake him. Only when we truly believe that the Lord is with us, will not fail us, and will not forsake us are we able to have faith bigger than our fear.

What changed in Moses between Deuteronomy 1 and 31?

The Lord had literally gone before the Israelites as a pillar of cloud and fire, why wasn't that enough for them to believe that He would go before them and that He would not fail or forsake them?

Do you truly believe that the Lord is with you, will not fail you, and will not forsake you?

Can you remember a time when you clearly knew that God was active in your life?

Faith Hindered by Logic

Deuteronomy 1:22-24

After telling the Israelites to go and take possession of the promised land, they come to Moses and say, "*Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us and bring back to us word of the way by which we should go up and the cities which we shall enter,*" (Deut. 1:22). Moses responds, "*The thing pleased me and I took twelve of your men, one man for each tribe. They turned and went up into the hill country and came to the valley of Eshcol and spied it out,*" (1 Deut. 1:23-24).

The people make a reasonable proposal that instead of sending their men into battle blind, they should first send in scouts, so they can understand what they will be fighting. Moses thinks this is a pretty good plan. He says the plan pleases him and he approves it. The problem is that it may have seemed wise, but it's not what God said to do. When the Israelites saw what they were up against, they got scared and they refused to obey. This is why the Bible tells us to "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight,*" (Prov. 3:5-6).

Moses allowed himself to be seduced by logic and reason. Some of Moses' greatest mistakes came from him doing what he thought was best, rather than what God had said. It's easy to do. But when we look at things "reasonably" from our limited perspective, it's natural to get overwhelmed and turn away from the Lord and His plan. Jeremiah 17:5 tells us "*Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD.*"

Moses paid a big price for leading by logic, why do you think this is?

What was different about Caleb and Joshua? Why were they willing to follow God even when it didn't seem "reasonable?"

Have you ever listened to unwise advice and been sorry afterwards?

How can we make sure to include God's perspective in our decision-making processes?

Written By: Jessica Barker

Faith Built by Trust

Deuteronomy 32:3b-4

Near the end of his life, Moses sings to the people of Israel, "*Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He,*" (Deut. 32:3b-4). Moses sings to them about who God is and what He has done for 43 verses. He paints a very vivid picture of God who is jealous but protects. God who loves deeply and unconditionally, but disciplines. God who destroys and God who saves.

Moses had been face-to-face with God. Moses trusted God because He was trustworthy. Moses was at the end of his life and he knew that he would never enter the Promised Land. When Moses tried to negotiate with God to see the Land, God gets angry and tells him, "*Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter,*" (Deut. 3:25-26). And yet, Moses tells the people that God is perfect. His ways are just, and He is without injustice. Moses is not ruled by his emotions, instead his faith is based on a foundation that God is perfect and trustworthy.

Think of the times in Moses' life when he trusted God and when he didn't. What were the results?

Would Moses have been justified in thinking that he had been treated unfairly by God?

Do you ever feel like God is treating you unfairly?

Read the Song of Moses (Deut. 32:1-43). What are 5 reasons from the song that show God's nature to be trustworthy?

Faith Hindered by Self-Sufficiency

Deuteronomy 1:30-45

The Lord told Moses to take the Promised Land and when the people got scared, He told them, "*The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,*" (Deut. 1:30). But they did not trust him and they did not go because they did not believe they could win.

Then the people told Moses, "*We have sinned against the Lord; we will indeed go up and fight, just as the Lord our God commanded us.'* And every man of you girded on his weapons of war and regarded it as easy to go up into the hill country," (Deut. 1:41). Moses told them that the Lord would not be with them in the fight and they would be defeated by their enemies (Deut. 1:42). But the people would not listen, they acted "presumptuously" and went into the hill country anyways. Just as predicted, they were defeated (Deut. 1:44-45).

Moses gave the Israelites wise counsel, but they wouldn't listen. Their self-sufficiency took on two very different forms. First, their faith was limited by underestimating God. Their perspective was limited to their own human limitations. They thought their power was not sufficient to do what God asked, so they refused to act. Second, the Israelites overestimated themselves. Their perspective was based on their human expectations. They thought their power was sufficient despite what God asked, so they refused to listen.

When God refused to remove the thorn in Paul's flesh, He told Paul, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness,*" (2 Cor. 12:9). We can't let our perspective be limited by our strengths or our weaknesses. Self-sufficiency can lead us to refuse to act or to refuse to listen. Instead, we should be looking for God's grace and power - only that is sufficient.

Could Moses have responded differently when the people refused to act and when they refused to listen?

Is it more common for you to refuse to act or to refuse to listen?

Do you have someone in your life who could tell you when you acting "presumptuously" and when you are being limited by your own power? Try to think of 3 people who would "keep you honest" when you're being self-sufficient.

Written By: Jessica Barker

Faith Built by Humility

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

When the rebellious generation in the wilderness dies and the next generation gets ready to go into the Promised Land, Moses tells them, "*You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord,*" (Deut. 8:2-3).

When the Israelites focused on themselves they failed. They were either too confident or not confident enough. Moses advises them to get the proper perspective by remembering what God has done and focusing on Him. A self-centered perspective ends in fear and pride. A God-centered perspective leads to success and humility.

Do you recognize verse 3, that man does not live by bread alone and lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord? This was one of the responses Jesus used against Satan when He was being tempted. (In fact, all 3 responses are quotes from Deuteronomy.) How are these situations similar?

Why would focusing on God make us humbler?

Write a list of at least 10 blessings you have received from the Lord. See how many you can come up with.

Moses: A Hero of the Faith

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

The book of Deuteronomy ends by telling us that since the time of Moses, "*no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, for all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel,*" (Deut. 34:10-12). There is no question that Moses was an imperfect man. We see hints in the scripture of a person who struggled with anger, self-doubt, and cowardice. He has a tendency to blame others and to hold a grudge. So, why is it that he had the great honor of being the only prophet to know God face to face? Why was chapter 3 of Hebrews written to prove that Jesus Christ is superior to Moses?

Why was this imperfect man a hero of the faith to be remembered for all time? Because there is no perfect human being other than Jesus Christ! Moses had to live with the consequences of his actions. He lost the Promised Land, but he did not lose God's promise or His love. Hebrews 3:12 says, "*Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you and evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.*"

We see this steadfast belief exhibited throughout the life of Moses. Through every test and trial, he remained true to the Lord. His heart never fell away from the living God. The best news is that God used Moses in spite of his faults. Hebrews 4:15-16 reminds us that Jesus Christ is not a great high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but He was One who has been tempted in all things as we are, but remained without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need!

Are you guided by fear or belief?

Are you ruled by logic or trust?

Is your faith hindered by self-sufficiency or built by humility?

Do you let God use you for His glory in spite of your weaknesses?

Do you draw near to the throne of Christ in confident faith to receive His mercy and grace in your time of need? If not, you can change that today. He's waiting for you and He understands what you're going through and what you need.

Written By: Jessica Barker

