

God Calls Moses to Help His People

Moses never forgot how God had helped him when he was a baby. He loved God and was eager to listen to Him. Moses also never forgot his people, the Hebrews, who lived such an unhappy life in Egypt. Even when Moses was living in the king's palace and had everything he wanted, he kept thinking of ways in which he could help his people.

One day, when Moses was a young man, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Seeing no one around, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day, two Hebrews were fighting and Moses said to the one who started the fight, "Why do you hit your fellow?" The man answered: "Who are you to judge us? Do you want to kill me, as you killed the Egyptian?" Moses was frightened and fled to another country.

One day Moses was sitting by a well and some young women came with a flock of sheep. They went to draw water from the well to water the sheep, but the other shepherds chased them away. Moses came to help them and drew water for all the sheep. The women thanked him and told their father Jethro how they were able to water the sheep so quickly. Their father told them to bring the man to their house. Moses was invited to stay with their family and later married the man's daughter Zipporah.

Jethro was a priest in the land of Midian. Moses began to take care of Jethro's flock of sheep. He led them to the west side of the wilderness, to a mountain called Horeb, the "mountain of God." One day when Moses was watching the sheep, he saw a bush burning, but it did not burn up. Then God called out to Moses from the bush: "Moses! Moses!" Moses answered: "Here am I!" God said, "Do not come near; take off your shoes from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then God said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face for he was afraid to look at God.

God told Moses that He had seen the troubles of His people in Egypt. He knew that they were suffering as slaves of their Egyptian rulers. God told Moses to go to the Pharaoh and ask him to let God's people leave the country freely. Moses would be the one to lead God's people from being slaves in Egypt.

Moses was afraid, for he wasn't sure his own people would believe that God had spoken to him. Moses said to God: "If I tell the people of Israel that 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me: 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses: "I AM WHO I AM." Tell them "I AM has sent me to you." Say to them: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you; this is my name for ever, and this is how I am to be remembered in every generation." Tell them that I will lead them out of Egypt and bring them to the land of their fathers in Canaan."

It was not easy for Moses to help his people. He had to be very brave. He had to do what God told him to do even when he knew that it would be very hard.

Moses also had trouble speaking clearly, so God told Moses to take his brother Aaron with him. Moses would tell Aaron what to say, and Aaron would speak the words to the Pharaoh.

One day after God had spoken to Moses, he and Aaron went to speak to the wicked king. He told the king to free the Hebrews so they could return to the land God promised; but the king did not listen to Moses and Aaron. Instead the king became very angry and Moses and Aaron were thrown out of the palace. Even the Hebrews themselves were not sure they wanted to believe Moses. But again and again God helped Moses to carry out His will.