



God In The Shadows

Exodus 2:1-25

#2 in a series on Exodus

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God Working In The Shadows Through A Series Of Unlikely Events.

1. Preserving one little Hebrew baby boy. (1-9; cf. Hebrews 11:23)
2. Preparing that baby to become Israel's deliverer. (10-11, 23; cf. 7:7; Acts 7:22-23;)
3. Persevering with His servant though impulsive, sinful behavior. (11-22)
4. Preserving His people in dark, difficult times. (23-25)

God Working In The Shadows Displays Clear, Practical Lessons For Us.

1. God prepares us for the work He wants us to do.
2. Doing it my way instead of God's way has consequences.
3. Nothing can derail or sidetrack God's purposes.
4. God is always working—He knows, cares and responds to our cries for help even when we cannot see or hear Him.

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Exodus 2:1-25. The first practical lesson we noted yesterday was that God prepares us for the work He wants us to do. As a believer you have spiritual abilities from God for His service (e.g. Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10). In addition, God uses all your experiences to prepare you for what He wants you to do.

While Moses was unique with his eighty years of preparation for a task no one before or after him did, the lesson is that God also prepares us, He leads and strengthens us for His work, including in ways we don't recognize. Don't wait until you think you are all prepared. Move forward in faith now. Don't allow past failures to keep you from service — see Paul's testimony in 1 Timothy 1:12-14.

Tuesday. Practical lesson #2 from Exodus 2 is that doing it my way instead of God's way has consequences. Read 2:11-23. Moses spent forty years in Midian following this. Now read Numbers 20:1-12 (this was after a similar situation in Exodus 17:1-7). Again, Moses did it his way. God's discipline was swift and irrevocable. While God was merciful to Moses (see Deuteronomy 34:1-8), he never placed a foot in the promised land.

Make sure everything you think, say and do is pleasing to God, no matter how trivial or vital, how private or public. Do everything God's way.

Wednesday. The third lesson from Exodus 2 is that nothing can derail or sidetrack God's purposes. The Egyptian genocide program did not derail God's promises and purposes to make a great nation from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Moses' impulsive sins did not sidetrack God's deliverance of the Hebrews from Egypt and settling them in the land He promised them. The people's rebellion on the way had consequences, but did not stop God from fulfilling His word.

Bad things happen to God's people. Some of God's people are not faithful and rebellious at times. This can bring damage and destruction. The consequences are often very painful. But nothing will stop God from fulfilling everyone of His good purposes and promises (cf. Joshua 21:45). Thank Him for this and live in light of it today.

Thursday. The final lesson from chapter 2 is that God is always working—He knows, cares and responds to our cries for help even when we cannot see or hear him. Read chapters 1 and 2. God was working in the shadows throughout this section.

When you cannot see God working, cannot hear Him, cannot sense His presence as you desire, make sure you are right with Him and keep trusting Him. He does not take vacations, He does not slumber or sleep (Psalm 121:4), He does not forsake His children (1 Kings 6:13; 2 Corinthians 4:9) or His work.

Friday/Saturday. On Sunday we plan to move into chapter 3 where God steps out of the shadows. Read 3:1-10 as you prepare yourself for our time together.