



"A Life of Choices"

July 15, 2018



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Exodus 2:11-25, Exodus 3:1-6; Exodus 3:7-20;
Exodus 4:1-13; Exodus 14

DAY 1

Life is filled with choices. Every day we are confronted with situations which require us to choose how we will respond. It is natural to believe the choices we make will be the correct ones, but can we guarantee that will always be the case? What we choose to do, or not to do, is the determining factor in our life's direction.

Read Exodus 2:11-25

- Moses' story is not far off from our own. As you read this account from his life, what were the choices placed before Moses and how did he respond? Why did he choose to act as he did?
- Think of a time when you were confronted with making a choice that would change your life's trajectory. What was going on? What were the choices before you at that time?
- It is clear that there was a different life ahead for Moses before he made this choice. How does Moses respond to the issue of justice which is running rampant in his heart? What could have been different had he chosen not to intervene?

- Was there a time when you had to make a tough decision that would make others upset at you? How did you feel when you made the decision?

DAY 2

Read Exodus 3:1-6

Moses is drawn to the precipice of Mount Horeb. It was known to the Hebrew people that God resided on the mountain. Moses sees a fire burning and decides to go to the mountain to find out what is going on. Some believe this is a sign of God's prevenient grace in the Old Testament. Preventive grace is the grace that comes from God before we are even aware of who God is. God "woos" us into His presence.

- When have you felt drawn into God's presence?

Moses makes the choice to approach God. When he realizes he is in God's holy presence his awe creates a deep sense of reverence and respect. God says to Moses that he is on holy ground.

- What does that mean? Where have you felt you were on holy ground? Why?

DAY 3

Read Exodus 3:7-20

God reveals to Moses that he has heard the cries and suffering of the Israelites. God tells Moses he has compassion and concern for them. Some say that God is out of touch and has no clue about the struggles people are going through. Others say God is responsible for human suffering.

- **Re-read verses 7-8.** What conclusions do you draw about God's heart and character from these

words? What would you say to those who believe otherwise?

At first Moses seems excited that God is ready to act, but that all changes when Moses finds out God is going to send him to deliver the people.

- What does Moses do? Why is he arguing with God about his role?

Before we give Moses a hard time, it's important to remember his reaction of disbelief is something we experience as well. Think of a time God nudged you to do something. Odds are, if it felt crazy or unbelievable, you wanted to make an excuse and choose not to do it.

- What were you being asked to do? Why did you fear, as Moses feared?

DAY 4

Read Exodus 4:1-13

Making excuses to avoid taking risks is something many of us do. If given the choice, most would choose a risk free life without change. Moses was confronted with a huge decision. Would he leave the safety of his life as a shepherd and follow God's lead on an impossible task? Or would he choose to miss out on a God-given opportunity that would literally change a nation and the world?

- When it comes to taking a risk, what do you do? Why do you feel it is hard to step out of your comfort zone and to begin a pioneering journey?
- Why do you think the people argued against Moses, even to the point of saying they would rather remain slaves in Egypt than to take a new direction in life?
- In what ways are the family of St. Paul UMC hearing God's invitation to choose a different path from our past? What is behind the reasons so many are afraid

"to leave Egypt" (the old ways) in order to enter the Promised Land (new ways and direction)?

- How can you be part of helping lead into the future?

DAY 5

Read Exodus 14

In this chapter of scripture we see the results of Moses' choice to follow God and do the impossible. Think of how this story would have been different for Moses had he said "no" to God's "big ask" of him.

Choosing to follow God allowed Moses to fulfill the life God hoped he would live into. **If Moses had not chosen to be obedient:**

- **He would have missed being used by God to deliver an entire nation of people from slavery to freedom.**
- **He would have missed shaping and forming these people to be God's own people.**
- **He would have missed seeing the Promised Land.**
- **You wouldn't know his story 3,300 years later.**

We can't control certain things in our life. None of us can control who are parents are, when we were born or the gifts and talents God has placed in us. The thing we can control is what choices we will make in life. **When it comes to choices, how will you respond to:**

- **Choosing to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior?**
- **Rededicating your life to Christ?**
- **Choosing to revamp your life's priorities to be God's priorities?**
- **Choosing to serve?**

Reflect on God's direction in the choices that have been put forth for you and pray for guidance and assistance in carrying out his will.