

## Exodus 2:11-14

*Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"*

Ministry, what a wonderful thing when the Lord directs it. But a ministry can also fall flat on its face as we just read in today's devotional verse.

What, you didn't catch it?

Well, first off, set aside what you have seen in the movies about Moses, including the famous movie, The Ten Commandments.

Now think about it, you are a Hebrew and you know that you are a Hebrew who was raised by Pharaoh's daughter. Now you see these Egyptians who raised you, beating your brother (Family members or one of your people). But you were also raised by your mother who taught you as a child of how the Lord would send a deliverer to release the children of Israel from their bondage to slavery that they were under in Egypt.

So you think, "Hey, I was saved when all the others boys were being killed, so I must be the chosen one to deliver my people from slavery in Egypt." Well, Moses was right, he was the chosen one, yet he went about it all the wrong way when he tried to deliver them his way, which was when *he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.*

What? Did Moses think he could deliver the children of Israel by single handedly killing the Egyptians one by one? Or maybe he thought that once he killed a few of the Egyptians that his brothers would join in with him in the crusade. But we know that neither one was right.

Also just because Moses was called to deliver the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, it wasn't time yet to do the ministry, because the Lord needed to prepare him first. Once Moses left Egypt (He left on his own, and was not expelled as the movie portrays that he was) then the Lord would start to prepare him for this ministry, which lasted 40 years.

**Exodus 3:7-10** *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the*

*Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

Moses tried on his own, but not until the Lord directed Moses when He said, *I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt*, did the ministry really start.

The same is true for us, just because you are called does not mean it's time to start the very moment that you are called. Also we should not expect huge things to happen the moment we are called.

I think of the church I went to in Florida, where the pastor was called there from Las Vegas, to start a church in Florida. So he drives here from Vegas with his wife and a few friends. But when he first got here, things did not explode with a church building set up and hundreds coming to church. No, in the beginning they had Sunday service in a funeral home, and there were all of maybe ten people that showed up that first Sunday back in 1985.

The pastor tells the story of when he got there to Florida that he worked selling TVs in a department store while being a pastor of this tiny church in Florida.

Now almost 30 years later, this tiny church has grown to more than 20,000 people who worship at the main campus in Fort Lauderdale with regional locations in Boca Raton, Boynton, Florida Keys, Hollywood, Naples, North Lauderdale, Plantation, the Villages and West Boca. Not to mention the thousands all over the world that watch live online each week on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

So I write this devotional to remind you not to jump in too quickly when you are called into a ministry, but rather to wait on the Lord and His timing, and how He wants to do this ministry. Also, don't get discouraged if it seems nothing is happening, or things are not happening the way you think they should be. But remember that it's the Lord's ministry and you are called to be a steward of that ministry, but you are not called to control nor direct it, because *A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9*