

Bible Character Study

Moses | Exodus 3 & 17

Trials Help Us Overcome Our Insecurities

Everyone has insecurities. We all have areas that we feel inadequate and afraid. But it's important to learn how to overcome those insecurities. What insecurities do you have that keep you from letting God use you to your full potential? Whether it's related to your physical appearance or abilities or intelligence or anything else, God can work through you if you let Him. Often we seek to live inside of our comfort zones rejecting anything that would cause us to overcome these insecurities, and in that, God often uses trials to help us break free. When trials come, people either learn to overcome their insecurities or cower before them. But God has not given His people a spirit of fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT) "For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

Psalms 27:3 (NLT) "Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident."

Romans 8:31 (NLT) "What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT) "Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence."

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NLT) "So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised."

Proverbs 3:25-26 (NLT) "You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, for the Lord is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap."

Philippians 4:13 (NLT) "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

Trials Give Us Opportunities to Deal with Difficult People

The vast majority of trials have something in common: people. Whether it be a difficult personality or harsh communication or a foolish choice that negatively affects others, people are often at the center of the trials we encounter. Why? The answer is simple... People are sinners, and sin yields trouble. So, what should we do when we're in the middle of a trial involving difficult people? Just like Moses, we should go to God first. Ask for His wisdom and direction. Furthermore, look at how Jesus responds to the difficult people in His life...people like Judas Iscariot, a backstabbing friend... Or Pilate, a man who turned Him over to death rather than stand up for what was right... or the religious people who yelled for Him to be crucified... These trials gave Jesus an opportunity to demonstrate how we should respond to difficult people when we walk through trials. Similarly, the trials we face will teach us how to respond righteously to the difficult people whom God has placed in our lives.

Exodus 17:4 (NLT) “Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!”

Matthew 5:43-45 (NLT) “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.”

Psalm 37:1-3 (NLT) “Don’t worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither. Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.”

Matthew 18:21-22 (NLT) “Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven...’”

Ephesians 4:15 (NLT) “Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.”

Hebrews 12:14 (NLT) “Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.”

Trials Allow Us to See How Much We Need Other People

While it's true that trials often involve people, they also reveal our need for the encouragement and help of other believers. We need each other! In light of quarantines and social distancing, this has become more and more evident to all of us. Take a moment and think about it: how has someone encouraged you when you have been in the middle of a trial? How have they lifted you up? Trials do allow us to see the importance of other people in our lives.

Exodus 17:12 (NLT) “Moses’ arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”

Galatians 6:2 (NLT) “Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

Romans 12:10 (NLT) “Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.”

Romans 12:13 (NLT) “When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.”

Philippians 2:4 (NLT) “Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT) “So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.”

Mark 2:1-5 (NLT) “When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home.² Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God’s word to them,³ four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat.⁴ They couldn’t bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus.⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, ‘My child, your sins are forgiven.’”

Notes:

Reflection and Response from This Week's Lesson:

What's my take-away and how will I practice trusting God more through my custom-designed trials?
