

"Who Made You a Prince?"

REVIEW: God freed his people from slavery: freed FROM the bitterness; freed TO the privileges: a holy nation, a kingdom of priests...

THE STORY Moses, all grown up, begins his life work [40 years old: Acts 7:23]

Exodus 2:11-12 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Exodus 2:13,14 When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?" He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." He gets asked **A QUESTION:** "Who made you a prince and a judge over us?"

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

- a) My step-mother, a princess!
- b) My birth mother, a slave!!
- c) My bold sister, also a slave!!
- d) The God of Abraham !!!
- e) All of the above

Moses grew up in the courts of Pharaoh knowing he had been born to deliver the people of God from their slavery. (Acts 7:22,25,35) So he knew the correct answer to the question: he knew the correct answer is "e" and the ultimate answer is "d"...

WHAT TO KNOW:

1. **God designed you and the details of your life with specific intentions.** Every detail of our lives is on purpose. We were born (and reborn) to play a role that was God's idea first.

NOTICE: The nation of God only needed saving from Egypt because their ancestors had experienced a famine. God could have more simply just ended the famine in Canaan (or prevented it.) Instead, he sent Joseph to Egypt. Joseph lived for 22 years, waiting to see "what this is all about".) In a similar way, Moses lived for about 40 years in the palace of the king where he was "instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds."

Every problem we ever experience was decreed or invented or permitted or allowed by God with a clear view of what God brought us into the world to accomplish!

Psalms 139:13,14,16 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well...in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them

Proverbs 16:4 The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Ephesians 1:11 ... him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith ... we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

(The Israelites were "ruthlessly made" slaves by the Egyptians. Ultimately, it was God who made them slaves. But it wasn't God's "ruthlessness! It is in his compassion and wisdom that he has ordained all the details of life for those who are his people. Even the unhappy and challenging details

* like Moses' 40 years in Egypt.

* like Israel's many years of slavery in Egypt

→ in every particular bitter circumstance, God could have turned the story another way.
And this is true of your circumstances as well!

And this sets us up to understand the 2nd thing to know:

2. If you belong to Christ (through your faith in Christ), **it is God's intention that you become like Christ.**

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Maybe you can see how some of the details of your life are making you more like Christ. Perhaps not! But...

WHAT TO DO:

a) **Take** (at least as **seriously** (as you take every other aspect of your life,) **this duty and honor of becoming like Christ.** In comparison to every other intention and ambition and item on your “To Do list.”

2 Timothy 3:3-4 ... heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, **not loving good,** treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...** What do we love more? Our pleasures or God? What pleasures of sin are you willing to deny yourself in order to get in on the work God has brought you into the world to accomplish?

Galatians 5:1,13 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. And who would we be more like if we “served one another through love” more?

b) **In your seriousness about becoming Christlike, pay** (and keep on paying) **the price of the privilege.**

Hebrews 11:24-27 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered **the reproach of Christ** greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt...

e.g. **Philippians 2:13-15** ... it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **Do all things without grumbling or questioning,** that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Philippians 3:8-9 ... I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

NEXT WEEK (September 27): **“I AM WHO I AM”** [Exodus 3:1-14]