

Lesson 15. Why Did Moses' Life Develop in a Rhythm of 40 Years?



Introduction

The life of Moses is not a random sequence of events, but a clear and purposeful process of God shaping a person. Over the course of 120 years, his life is divided into three equal periods of 40 years, and each of them carries special meaning.

This pattern reveals an important truth: God does not work in a hurry. He forms a person gradually, preparing them for service through different circumstances, seasons, and challenges.

Purpose of the Lesson

To show how God forms a person step by step for ministry and why every stage of life has significance in His plan.

Key Scriptures (NKJV)

📖 Acts 7:22–23 (NKJV)

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds. Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.”

📖 Acts 7:30 (NKJV)

“And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.”

Deuteronomy 34:7 (NKJV)

“Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.”

Historical and Geographical Context

Moses' life unfolds in three very different environments:

- **Egypt** — a center of power, culture, and education
- **The wilderness of Midian** — a place of solitude and inner transformation
- **The wilderness of Sinai** — a place of God's revelation and the formation of a nation

This is not just geography — it is three stages of God's school, where the future leader of Israel was being shaped.

Main Idea of the Lesson

👉 God forms a person step by step: He develops, humbles, and then uses them.

MAIN CONTENT

1. Why does God first develop a person's abilities?

Thesis: God first develops a person's potential, even if they are not yet ready for ministry.

Explanation: Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace—one of the most advanced centers of the ancient world. He received education, leadership skills, and an understanding of power. However, he was not yet ready to fulfill God's plan.

When he tried to help his people by his own strength (Exodus 2:11–12), it led to failure. This shows that having abilities does not mean being ready for ministry.

In Egypt, God was forming in him:

- wisdom and education
- leadership qualities
- a sense of justice
- awareness of his calling

But without spiritual maturity, these qualities could lead to wrong actions.

👉 **Conclusion:** In Egypt, Moses became educated and strong, but also self-confident.

Practical Applications

◆ Growth is part of God's plan

Education, skills, work, and even daily responsibilities are not случайные—they are tools God uses to shape a person. What may seem like “ordinary life” is actually where the foundation for future ministry is built: discipline, thinking, responsibility, and the ability to finish what is started. Moses did not become a leader overnight—he was first a learner in Egypt.

✅ Take seriously what God has given you in this season, because today's faithfulness shapes tomorrow's calling.

◆ Do not act outside of God's timing

The desire to prove yourself, move quickly, or do something significant can lead to rushed decisions. Moses tried to act in his own strength—and it led to failure and escape. This shows that even a right intention, carried out at the wrong time and without God, can lead to wrong results. God's timing is always connected to the readiness of the heart, not just ability.

✅ Learn to pause, pray, and seek God's direction before making important decisions, trusting that He knows the right moment.

2. Why does God lead through the wilderness?

Thesis: God uses difficult seasons to transform a person's heart.

Explanation: After his mistake, Moses fled into the wilderness and spent 40 years there. From an educated and capable prince, he became a shepherd. This period may seem unproductive on the outside, but it is in the wilderness that deep inner transformation takes place.


The wilderness is a season of:

- silence
- waiting
- no visible results

It is here that:

- self-confidence is broken
- humility is formed

- dependence on God grows

 **Exodus 3:11 (NKJV)**

“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh...?’”

Before, Moses thought, “I can.”

Now he says, “Who am I?”—these words reveal humility and his dependence on God.

👉 Only now is he ready for his calling.

Practical Applications

♦ The wilderness is a time of formation

Seasons of difficulty, waiting, and uncertainty are often seen as wasted time, but in God’s plan they are some of the most important moments of life. In these seasons, a person learns patience, inner strength, and trust in God—even without visible results. It may seem like nothing is happening, but inside, character is being formed in a way that comfort could never produce. The wilderness removes what is unnecessary, reveals true motives, and teaches dependence on God rather than circumstances. It is a time when God prepares a person for something greater, even if they cannot yet see it.

✅ Do not avoid difficult seasons—walk through them with trust, understanding that God is shaping your depth and stability.

♦ God works on the heart

People often focus on external things: skills, knowledge, achievements, and recognition. However, for God, the most important thing is the inner condition—the motives, character, and relationship with Him. Skills may open doors, but only a right heart allows a person to stand firm in trials and use opportunities correctly. Without a transformed heart, even strong abilities can lead to pride, mistakes, or failure. God primarily develops humility, obedience, and sincerity, because these qualities make a person ready for true ministry.

✅ Ask God not only to develop your abilities, but first to transform your heart, so that everything you do flows from right motives and obedience to Him.

3. Why does God use only a prepared person?

Thesis: God uses the one who has learned to fully trust Him.

Explanation: After 80 years of preparation, Moses begins his ministry. He leads the people of Israel through the wilderness, facing constant challenges, complaints, and crises.

But now he is a different person:

- he obeys God
- he prays for the people
- he no longer relies on himself

 **Numbers 12:3 (NKJV)**

“Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.”

He becomes a mediator between God and the people, interceding for them (Exodus 32).

👉 God does not use the strongest, but the humblest—those who recognize their complete dependence on Him.

Practical Applications

♦ Ministry is responsibility

In God’s understanding, ministry is not a position, a title, or a way to be noticed—it is прежде всего responsibility for the people God entrusts to you. It means carrying the burdens of others, showing patience, forgiveness, and care, even when it is difficult and brings no visible recognition. True ministry often happens quietly, in small things, through faithfulness in simple actions and a sincere attitude toward people. Moses did not seek glory—he carried the people, prayed for them, and stood before God on their behalf. Ministry requires maturity, sacrifice, and a willingness to put others above yourself.

✅ Learn to serve people sincerely and sacrificially, without expecting recognition, remembering that God sees the heart and values faithfulness.

♦ Faithfulness is more important than success

Modern thinking often values quick results, visible success, and achievements, but in God’s Kingdom, the main measure is faithfulness. Moses did not always see immediate results—the people complained, difficulties arose, and mistakes happened—yet he remained faithful to God throughout his life. Faithfulness is shown in consistency, in continuing forward even when it is hard, unclear, or when there are no immediate results. God values not how fast someone reaches the goal, but how faithful they remain in the process. It is faithfulness that builds stability and makes ministry genuine.

✅ Remain faithful to God in every season of life—both in success and in difficulty—trusting that He sees and will reward your perseverance.

4. Why does each person have a unique path of formation?

Thesis: God forms each person individually, but the principle remains the same.

Explanation: Not everyone will have Moses' exact timeline of 40 years. Each person has their own process:

- for some it is faster
- for others it is longer
- for others it comes through different trials and circumstances

But the principle is the same:

👉 development → humility → ministry

It is important not to compare yourself with others, because God leads each person in a unique way.

Practical Applications

◆ Do not compare yourself with others

Comparison is one of the most common causes of inner dissatisfaction and loss of peace. When a person focuses on someone else's path, success, or pace of growth, they stop seeing God's work in their own life. Each person has a unique calling, timing, and circumstances through which God leads them. What God is doing in someone else's life is not necessarily His plan for you. Comparison leads either to pride or discouragement, but in both cases it takes a person away from trusting God. True spiritual maturity is seen when a person accepts their path as God's personal guidance.

✅ Trust the path God is leading you on, and focus on your faithfulness rather than someone else's results.

◆ Value every stage of life

Every season of life has meaning and purpose, even if it seems small or difficult. Often there is a desire to move quickly to the next stage, overlooking the present one, but it is the current season that forms the qualities needed for the future. God does not rush and does not make unnecessary steps—everything a person goes through has purpose in His plan. What feels like preparation or waiting today may become the foundation for ministry tomorrow. It is important to value not only the results but also the process.

✅ Accept your current season as part of God's process, striving to be faithful right where you are.

Discussion Questions

1. Why didn't God use Moses immediately, but prepared him for 80 years?
2. What is the danger of acting outside of God's timing?
3. What does the "wilderness" represent in modern life?
4. Why does God focus more on character than abilities?

5. What changed in Moses between the first and second stages of his life?
 6. Why is humility an essential quality of a leader?
 7. How can a person understand which stage of formation they are in?
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Homework

Practical: Identify which stage of formation you are currently in (development, wilderness, or ministry) and describe it on one page.

Creative: Draw a diagram of Moses' life (three stages of 40 years) and label what God was forming in each stage.
