

# **Ridin' High Cowboy Church**

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth**

*1 John 3: 16-18*

***Sunday, February 12, 2017***

## **Moving Past the Past.**

Last week in ***2 Timothy 1:7*** God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. (Waiting is snot wasting, its God working)

How do we detach ourselves from negative experiences in the past and start living without fear?

White Noise Illustration:

A pleasant sound used to cover up an unpleasant sound  
fan, music, or a sound of you're used to (planes, trains highways)

What do people use to cover up the past or negative feelings...TV, food, shopping, work, phone (on average, a person will swipe or touch their phone over 2,000 times a day...)

Moses might have been one of the most fearful characters in the Bible. Moses life began in fear. The constant reminder that he was different and his people were slaves filled him with fear and anger. A slave's life was cheap. Pharaoh was afraid that Israelites would outnumber them.

Hebrew midwives feared God more than Pharaoh, even though God had done nothing for them lately.

***Exodus 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."***

## **Exodus: 2**

**1 Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. (I always think what if he was an ugly child) 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" 8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."**

If there was ever a guy who should have been confident in God, it's Moses. God so clearly had his hand on Moses, saved by midwives. Mom was creative with basket, sister watched, Pharaoh's daughter found him, raided not as a slave but in Pharaoh's palace. Moses could not see it because his current circumstances would not let him see God at work. Many times we can't see it either, we are blinded to God's activity in our present because of our past. Fear and inaccurate interpretation of events...

**11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. 12 Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one I the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?" The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known." 15 When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.**

Here's the picture – the great Moses runs from Pharaoh to Midian and he does what we do, he built himself a life with a new wife, kids, job and he said I am never going back to Egypt and my people. He had a wrinkle free life and everything was under control. One day, God interrupted all this just like he has done to me and wants to do to you.

He told Moses, you can never be what I want you to be in Midian.

***Exodus 3:1-11*** ***1*** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ***2*** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ***3*** So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.” ***4*** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.” ***5*** “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ***6*** Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

***7*** The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ***8*** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ***9*** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ***10*** So now, go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

***11*** But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (in other words, Moses is saying been there done that, and I’m not going back!)

***Exodus 4*** (Moses Excuses) ***1*** Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The LORD did not appear to you?’”

(He turns the staff into a snake as proof)

***10*** Moses said to the LORD, “Pardon your servant, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, I am slow of speech and tongue.”

***13*** But Moses said, “Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.” Moses just plain told God send someone else.

Moses came to a point where he thought I can’t imagine this is going to work out, but he gave in and said, Ok, I’ll go. Not because I feel that I can, but because of your God.

Moses began to see that all those things that were failures and barriers in his past were evidence that God's hand had been on his life all along, it was all to bring Moses to a point of brokenness and dependence.

When you do want God is telling you to do today, you will see his purpose in your past – Your past will never make sense until you invite God into your present.

We all need a burning bush experience, where we come to a crisis in our life that requires a decision. Am I going to fear God more than I fear my past...It's about God's power not yours.

I would rather live with the knowledge of what God might do in and through me than hide behind the walls I created to keep from feeling what I don't like.

What is it that you are hiding behind that keeps you from saying 'yes' to what God wants you to do. Don't miss out on what God wants to do through you by being afraid to step out again.