

Blueprint for a Burnout

Chapter 6

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 20



Objective: to learn from Moses life and understand how and why God used a man like Moses.



The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

—Numbers 20:12

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

—Revelation 4:11

It is sad to realize that Moses was never allowed to enter the Promised Land. The sin of Moses is one of the mysteries of the book of Numbers. God is the one who defines what is right and fair, and He has a higher standard for leaders than He does for others. One sin Moses committed was in not giving God glory in front of the people. God had taught Moses that He would always be with him and that Moses would be the human instrument of the great miracle of deliverance. But in anger, Moses asked the people, “Must *we* bring you water out of this rock?” (Numbers 20:10) He gave himself some of the credit for the miracle.

In another important story about Moses, we learn that even great people of God can come to the end of themselves physically, emotionally, and mentally. It is normal for God’s people to get tired *from* serving Him, but we should not get tired *of* serving Him.

Moses’ life demonstrates the miracle that God delights to do very extraordinary things through very ordinary people who are *available*. In God’s eyes, the greatest ability is *availability*. In Numbers, we see the greatness of Moses, the “burnout” of Moses, and the sin of Moses. But God used Moses because he was available. God wants to use us for the same reason.



1. True or false? When Numbers tells us that Moses was “meek,” it does not mean that he was weak.
2. True or false? Moses had taken on himself the disciplines of God and he wanted to obey God and do His will.
3. True or false? God has the same standards for leaders and other people.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. How did God speak to Moses?
 - a. In secret code
 - b. Only on mountaintops
 - c. Very infrequently
 - d. Face to face
5. What offer did God make to Moses?
 - a. To wipe out Israel and make a new nation from Moses
 - b. To make Moses live forever as king
 - c. To take Israel back to Egypt
 - d. To make Israel be obedient and never complain again
6. Why did Moses not enter the Promised Land?
 - a. He got too old.
 - b. He went back to Egypt.
 - c. He sinned, so God would not allow him.
 - d. He found a better home before he got there.
7. Why did Moses’ sin grieve God?
 - a. Moses disobeyed by striking the rock twice instead of just speaking to it.
 - b. Moses did not honor God in his angry words to Israel.
 - c. God had a higher standard for Moses because they had a closer relationship than anyone else.
 - d. All of the above
8. When Moses got tired of taking care of all the people, what did God tell him?
 - a. To obey, whether he liked it or not
 - b. To choose some people to help him
 - c. To get some rest and then get back to work
 - d. That godly people are not supposed to get tired
9. How did God speak to Balaam?
 - a. With a loud voice like thunder
 - b. Through a donkey
 - c. With a copy of the Bible
 - d. Through his friends

10. What kind of person does God choose to use?

- a. Only those with great ability
- b. Only those who never make mistakes
- c. Only those who are important
- d. Anyone who trusts Him and is available



How available are you to be used by God? Can you think of anything God has asked you to do? If so, what is it?



Thank God for His faithfulness to you, and tell Him you always want to be faithful to Him. Offer yourself to Him as a completely available servant who is committed to do His will. And tell Him that He is your Lord and your God and you will always give Him all the honor and glory and power over your life.



Going Deeper

1. How could the man who was perhaps the greatest man of God who ever lived burn out as Moses did? (Consider Numbers 11) What is the difference between being physically tired and being tired and frustrated by one's work or circumstances? _____

2. What was so great about the sin of Moses that God would not let him lead the people into the Promised Land? (Moses had hit the rock with his staff after he had been told to speak to the rock. He said, "Must we bring you water from this rock?") _____

3. Does Moses ever complain about God's response to his sin? If so, how? _____

4. In his prayer in Numbers 11, when Moses asked God to take his life, how did God respond to that request? When we ask God for the wrong thing, will God give us the right thing if our heart is right? (Relate to Romans 8:26-28) _____

5. What does it mean when we read that Moses spoke with God face-to-face? _____

6. What was the greatest ability of Moses? _____

7. What is the devotional and practical application in this story of God speaking through a donkey? _____
