Verses: Exodus 4:10-13 and Ephesians 6:19-20 Occasion: Worship

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Lake Mary October 18, 2020

Pastor: Joe Raymond

**Song**

**We have come into this house,**

**gathered in His name**

**to worship Him.**

**We have come into this house,**

**gathered in His name**

**to worship Him.**

**We have come into this house,**

**gathered in His name**

**to worship Christ our Lord.**

**Worship Him,**

**worship the Lord.**

**Being Bold**

Scripture readings**: Exodus 4:10-13 and Ephesians 6:19-20**

**Exodus 4:10-13**

10 **But Moses said to the Lord, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”**11 **Then the Lord said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?**12 **Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.”**13 **But he said, “O my Lord, please send someone else.”**

**Ephesians 6:19-20**

**19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.**

**This is the word of the Lord! Thanks be to God.**

**Let us pray**

 Heavenly Father, please quiet our minds and open our hearts

to Your truth,

and please

**…let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
   O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**Amen**

**Sermon**

Have you ever heard the saying, “Hindsight is 20/20?”

Maybe this statement is not 100%, true but it is mostly factual!

We cannot see the future, but the events of the past become clearer with the perspective of history. Looking back, we can understand more.

In our scripture readings today, we heard the deep thoughts of two great men in the Bible, Moses and the apostle Paul. Their lives took drastic turns, as they took their steps of faith. From their vantage point, they walked into the unknown, trusting God. From our vantage point, we see the mighty ways God used them, and this builds our faith.

These two devout men, though they started out on different paths, ended up living tremendous lives with some remarkable similarities.

Today, we will look at the descriptive word “**bold”** as it pertains to these two faithful men and ask ourselves if we should seek to be **bold** as well or leave that distinction to the prominent Biblical figures of old.

Moses experienced miracles from infancy. Though he was an Israelite,

* he was rescued from Pharaoh’s edict to kill all the male babies born to the Israelites in Egypt,
* he was raised in Pharaoh’s palace,
* he was well educated and wealthy.

God chose Moses to declare liberty to his people, Israel, who were physically enslaved by the Egyptians, and teach them to worship and obey the one true God.

Paul was also an educated man, He described himself and his prestigious Jewish background in Philippians 3:5-6…**as to the law, a Pharisee;**6 **as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.**

Paul’s miracles came as an adult. The first one we read about was when Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus.

God chose Paul to declare liberty to all who were enslaved by sin and teach them to worship and obey the one true God.

He told them (Romans 6:22)

**…you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God**

As we read our verses today, did you notice a sharp contrast in the thoughts of these two men? What did each seek?

Moses wanted out! **“O my Lord, please send someone else.”**

Paul wanted to press on. His request was:

* **when I speak, a message may be given to me**
* **to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,**
* **that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.**

Why was there this drastic difference?

It was a question of faith.

In all fairness to the man, Moses, we must realize that when he was called by God to declare freedom in Egypt, he did not have the advantage of historical hindsight, that Paul later had.

As we know, Paul had been raised learning the Old Testament stories full of God’s faithfulness, provisions, and His victories through many generations!

Paul listed several men and women from these stories in Hebrews 11.

He called them a “cloud of witnesses!”

* Abel
* Enoch
* Noah
* Abraham
* Sarah
* Moses
* Rahab
* Jephthah
* Samson
* David
* Samuel

In Hebrews 12:1-2, Paul explained:

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**

We can learn from these verses that Paul understood that the source of his perseverance, his **boldness,** was Christ himself!

It is important to note that Moses changed drastically from that man who wanted “out” as he stepped forward into God’s plan.

Listen to his **bold** words in Deuteronomy 32.

Here, he is not at all “slow of speech and slow of tongue” as he had described himself in the beginning of his journey!

**Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;
    let the earth hear the words of my mouth.**2 **May my teaching drop like the rain,
    my speech condense like the dew;
like gentle rain on grass,
    like showers on new growth.**3 **For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;
    ascribe greatness to our God!**

4 **The Rock, his work is perfect,
    and all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without deceit,
    just and upright is he;**

These are just 4 verses of what is known as Moses’s final song. It continues for 43 long verses telling of God’s majesty and prophesying what would happen if Israel turned away from God. He was certainly **bold** when he delivered this song to the Israelites, as God enabled him to be.

Both Moses and Paul understood that the power comes from God!

This is what Paul has been teaching us in the book of Ephesians.

Last week we learned in verse 18 that it is important to deliberately pray for this power for each other.

In verses 19 and 20, we learn another important aspect about prayer.

In these verses, Paul requests prayer for his ministry from others. If Paul recognized his need for this, certainly so should we!

Paul’s request for prayers that he be given “a message” that he **may declare it boldly** has been answered to an extent that Paul probably never dreamed of!

Could Paul have known that his letter writing would guide believers 2000 years later? He thought he was writing to a handful of churches in the area!

No, and neither do we know what our **boldness** for the Lord’s gospel will bring about.

God may use that next lunch visit with a friend, or that next chat with a colleague to plant seeds that will lead to salvation for many!

1 Corinthians 13:9,11,12

**9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ..12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.**

I encourage you to begin to actively pray and also to request prayer that you will be given a message to **make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,** to share the good news of salvation with those God brings in your lives.

As God asked Moses, **“Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?**

This is truly good news! Our Heavenly Father can give us a message and the **boldness** to spread the gospel and bring glory to His name!

Friends, please remember, this good news came to you on its way out to someone else, using YOU as a messenger.

To those of you who do not yet know Jesus, I encourage you to ask for prayer that your eyes may open to the truth of the mystery of salvation through Christ. I urge you, please call or come see me as soon as possible, so we can have that life and death conversation.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

We admit that often we are reluctant to share Your gospel with others because we lack confidence in ourselves. But You have taught us in Your word, that You will supply all we need to proclaim Your name and bring You glory. Please give us and all the saints a message and the boldness to proclaim Your truth, as we stand on our faith in You, not in ourselves.

Amen!

And now:

 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ… the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Go in peace.