

SURVIVOR MAN

Exodus 2:11-22

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

February 20, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

What do you want to be when you grow up? Script for your life, a vision of what life's going to be like. Envision ... front cover WIRED Magazine. Grammy, for best vocalist of the Millennium. Not that grandiose ... Heart set - how devastating when you don't get accepted by university. Longing to find the love of your life, think you've found them, and then comes the painful break up. Or you find the love of you life and after a few days of marriage you discover they aren't exactly what you had in mind. OOPS! What did I do? Maybe children will help fill in the gaps. Hoping/praying for children, don't come. Or have them and they don't turn out just like you'd planned. SAY TO GOD, THIS IS NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND. What did you do with the script I wrote?

When OUR story takes unexpected turns, dreams get shattered WE think all is lost... but God doesn't. Instead, God takes us into the desert ... we give up our story and he prepares us to live His story.

Please open ... Exodus 2. Page 41.

You've heard of Survivor Man. Ill.

Moses SM ... not a week in the Outback. 40 years on the backside of desert. Mid-Life CRISIS.

Along the way, Moses life takes more than one turn ...

1st 40 years of his life (2:1-10) were charmed ... **he knew he was really SOMEBODY.** Everything he touched turned to gold. Moses life begins with miraculous birth, deliverance, upbringing, education. 2nd 40 years of his life (2:11ff.) seemed cursed ... **he discovered that he was really a NOBODY.** He was banished to life on the backside of the desert. Lost in obscurity, no power, no money, boring. 3rd 40 years of his life (2:23ff) ... **he learned how God can use ANYBODY,** even if they are the BIGGEST LOSER, worst sinner ... to accomplish His will and miraculously deliver His people.

READ vv. 11-14 "One day, after Moses had grown up" ... How old? 40. Stephen Sermon ...

Acts 7:23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his fellow Israelites, Fellow Israelites.

Moses embraced heritage. "He went out to his own people". Identified with their burdens. Social justice. **Hebrews 11:24-26** ²⁴By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

Moses knew he was a Hebrew, knew the Hebrews had been wrongly enslaved, knew he was the deliverer. Saw the oppression and thought "I can't just sit by and watch. "I'm going to do something about this."

Looked around, Premeditated murder, then buried the victim in the sand. Premature delivery.

Thought he could hide it. Somebody reported. Moses crime became front-page news. Leave country.

Don't run ahead of God. ill. Abraham ... God's timing. Impatient. Mess of things.

We panic and take matters into own hands. God says Wait. Waiting is hard.

READ v. 15 Pharaoh sent assassins. Fugitive. Moses "on the run".

Sat down. Looked up. Oh no, my worst nightmare, I'm stuck in California City (on way to Mammoth).

An irreparable mistake, a fatal error. No way back. Life is over. God can't use me.

Ill. We may think we are disqualified. Such a big sinner ... But If God's grace can forgive, cleanse and renew a murderer for God's service, He can do the same for us.

Don't sit down and give up. No mistake is insurmountable, every sin can be forgiven. Confess.

READ vv. 16-22 He not only sat down, he settled down. What he named son tells us state of mind. *"I'm an alien here,"* life is over, I give up." I've wasted my life. Missed my destiny. Failure.

But this time in the desert wasn't wasted, it was absolutely necessary.

1st 40 Growing confidence, 2nd 40 deflating EGO. 1st Trust self, 2nd trust God. **Heart of Humility**

Don't run ahead of God.

Don't sit down and give up.

Instead, embrace the desert as an essential time of preparation.

1st The wilderness is not only NORMAL, it is absolutely necessary. Time out, time to trust.

2nd There are no short cuts to HUMILITY. Moses not immediately restored, took 40 years.

Desert experiences ... Everyone has them, if you haven't you will. Not wasting. Preparing.

Rejection, Betrayal, Depression, Unfulfilled Dreams, Prolonged Illness, Failure ...

Ill. Riding through Judean wilderness on road from Sea Galilee to Dead Sea. Jesus went there.

Ill. When have you been in the wilderness and how did God use it?

Ill. NBA All-Star weekend ... Del Harris

Strayed from Christ (NBA), parents died, returned, surrender. Lock out (months), 12 games into 6th season as Head Coach of Lakers; UNDRAFTED. 2 years. Ann trusted Jesus.

Fired from dream job ... Best thing that happened.

God has already written the script. He is preparing us to live it out.

Ben Patterson ... "Waiting is a great opportunity."

Isaiah 40:41 "those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired they will walk and not faint," (NAS)

Conclusion:

From Somebody special, to NOBODY special ... to someone God could finally use. Head, Heart.

God uses the wilderness to teach humility and get us ready to fulfill destiny. Head, heart.

What feels like survival is God's way of preparing us for what He has in store.

Will you stop running ahead, never give up, embrace the desert as necessary preparation?

Hearts of humility so we can serve Him, and live out His STORY. Beyond survival, make us useful.