

## 40 YEARS TOO SOON

### MOSES' STORY: 40 Years Too Soon

Exodus 2:11-25 Acts 7:20-29 Hebrews 11:24-26

### LIFE LESSONS: The Truth About Finding And Experiencing God's Will In Our Life

- (1) God's will always has a **WHAT** and a **WHEN**  
Acts 7:25 John 7:1-6 Genesis 12:1-6 & Genesis 15:1-16 Genesis 16-17  
Psalm 15:1-5 & James 5:12
  
- (2) God's will always has a **WHAT** and a **HOW**  
Exodus 2:11-12 Matthew 4:1-11 1 Samuel 15:22 Proverbs 14:12  
2 Corinthians 10:3-4 James 1:20 Ephesians 4:26 & Romans 12:17-21
  
- (3) Expect some **STATIC** on the **LINE**  
Acts 16:6-10 James 3:13-17 Proverbs 15:22
  
- (4) Even when we **SCREW UP**, God's plan is not **MESSED UP**  
Romans 11:29 Revelation 12:10 & 1 John 2:1-2 Jeremiah 18:1-8
  
- (5) God is at **WORK** even when we think he's **ASLEEP**  
Exodus 2:21-25 Psalm 33:8-11 Isaiah 55:8-11 2 Peter 3:8-9 Proverbs 3:5-6

## Food for Thought for the week of November 22, 2015

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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**1.** In the letters Paul wrote to the churches he planted, he included a number of his prayers for the church members. From these prayers we can get great insight into God's will for our lives. As you read each passage, jot down what he prays for.

### **Colossians 1:9-14**

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **Ephesians 3:16-19**

<sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

From these prayers, what stands out to you most about how God wants us to live?

Which of the things Paul prayed for would you most like others to pray for you to have or experience?

**2.** God's will often unfolds very differently than we expect. One example of this is found in an interesting story in 2 Kings 5:1-15. After reading the story, answer the questions below.

### **2 Kings 5:1-15**

#### *Naaman Healed of Leprosy*

<sup>1</sup> Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

<sup>2</sup> Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>4</sup> Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. <sup>5</sup> "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. <sup>6</sup> The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

<sup>7</sup> As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

<sup>8</sup> When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." <sup>9</sup> So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. <sup>10</sup> Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

<sup>11</sup> But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. <sup>12</sup> Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

<sup>13</sup> Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" <sup>14</sup> So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

<sup>15</sup> Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."

How do Naaman's expectations of how God would heal him compare to how it actually happened?

Why do you think Naaman was so angry at how God chose to heal him?

What can we learn about how we and others respond to God's will from this story?

**3.** Part of getting the static off the line is involving other people in our lives. What do the following verses suggest about how this might look?

### **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

### **Hebrews 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

### **James 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.