

The School of Hard Knocks: Part 2

EXODUS 2:16-22

LIVING
FAITHFULLY
IN A
FOREIGN
Land

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The School of Hard Knocks SEMESTER 1

LESSON 1: We cannot live faithfully for God trusting our own strength.

LESSON 2: We cannot live faithfully for God depending on our own schemes.

LESSON 3: We cannot live faithfully for God running from our own sin.

LESSON 4: We can live faithfully for God _____ things God's way.

Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. vv. 16-17

Be _____ with the little before asking to be entrusted with more. (Lk 16:10)

LESSON 5: We can live faithfully for God if we are _____ with God's way.

When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?" They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock." He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread." And Moses was content to dwell with the man ... vv. 18-21a

Be _____ with grace given rather than entitled to what you think you're owed. (Phil 4:11-13)

LESSON 6: We can live faithfully for God _____ God's way.

... and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." vv. 21b-22

Be _____ serving others the way Jesus has served you. (Phil 2:4-7)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28



DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

LIVING FAITHFULLY IN A FOREIGN Land

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 2:16-22. What changes does Moses experience as he moves from Egypt to Midian, both in day-to-day life and in his attitude?

2. In what ways does Moses display humility rather than willfulness in this new chapter of his life?

3. Last week's sermon illustrated how God dismantled the ways Moses tried to live by his own strength. This week's focus is on how Moses was built up to live God's way instead. How have you experienced God doing the same thing in your life, and how did it change you?

4. What "desert" or "wilderness" has God placed you in for the time being (or in the recent past)? What things is He teaching you from your sojourn there?

5. The Hebrew word for 'desert' is *midbaar*, rooted in the word *dahbaar*, which means 'to speak.' How does this definition give you insight into the purposes God has for our times in the desert?

6. How can prayer be a sign of a humble heart? What are you doing to grow as a person who seeks God's ways through prayer?

7. On a scale of 1 to 10, how content are you with what God has provided at this time in your life? Explain why you answered with that number.

8. What insight did the sermon give you in regard to how we learn contentment?

9. What is an act of humble service you can offer in the coming week in one of these areas:

- home
- discipleship relationship with another believer
- interaction with an unbeliever
- church
- workplace
- community

"The desert wears many faces. It may be crowded with people, yet it is lonely. It may rain day and night without reprieve, yet it is barren. Flowers may bloom and trees may blossom all around you, yet it is desolate. Does God know? Does He understand? He understands very well, my friend. After all, He's the One who put you there. His schooling includes time in the wilderness. That's where He gets our attention. In the 'howling waste of a wilderness,' God does four things. First, He encircles us. Second, He cares for us. Third, He guards us as the pupil of His eye. Isn't that beautiful? When you think about it, you realize the pupil of your eye is the most protected part of your body. You won't let anything touch it. You shield it with great care. You safeguard it from the sun. You care for it constantly. ... The fourth thing He does is to guide us. Whether you have known it or not, felt it or not, even believed it or not, God has not taken His hand off your life. You have felt naked and exposed in that empty land, yet all along He has spread His wings over you. You have been sheltered by the pinions of the Most High God. ... Why does God lead us through desert places? Let's get the answer from Moses, who had advanced degrees from God's School of the Wilderness. It is so that He might humble us, that He might test us, and that the true condition of our heart might be revealed. Not that God might come to know you (He already does), but that *you* might come to know you. There's nothing like the desert to help you discover the real you. That's what the desert did for Moses. It will humble you. It will show you your strengths and weaknesses. It will help you discover yourself as never before."

CHARLES SWINDOLL

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

REACH FURTHER THIS EASTER Easter is just around the corner! As you leave today, pick up an Inviter Card and begin praying over who you can invite to join us for this special celebration. Easter is about the hope and victory found in Jesus Christ, and by inviting someone, you're sharing the gospel with them. **RSVPs for Easter services will open Sunday, March 23.** Visit our website for service times and more details at www.ccbcfamily.org/easter. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

THAT YOU WOULD KNOW HIM God wants a personal, growing relationship with you! When we live fully dependent on the Lord and the Holy Spirit, we experience the abundant life Jesus offers. So, how do we grow in this? Join Dr. Doug Cecil for a class where he'll discuss important topics like "What is the spiritual life?" and "The filling of the Spirit." Join us starting Sunday, March 30, in the Oak Room from 3 to 4:45 p.m.

WOMEN'S PRAYER RETREAT We all need more time with the Lord, but life's distractions can pull us away. Our Spring Prayer Retreat is the perfect chance for Christ Chapel women to unplug and focus on one-on-one time with Jesus. With short messages on prayer, a personal testimony, fellowship and prayer guides, you'll have everything you need to deepen your connection with God. Bring your Bible, journal, favorite spiritual book and anything that helps you worship! Sign up at www.ccbcfamily.org/prayerretreat.

EASTER LILIES This Easter, we invite you to honor someone who has deeply impacted your faith or to remember a loved one. Dedicate an Easter lily in their name, and it will be displayed on Easter morning as a beautiful tribute. To dedicate a lily, simply visit www.ccbcfamily.org/lilies. Let's celebrate the season by honoring those who have made a lasting impact on our faith.

MONDAYS WITH THE MASTER Join us every Monday for a time of focused prayer as we come together to pray. This is a great opportunity to grow in our discipleship and pray in community, supporting one another and seeking God's guidance for the needs around us. Whether you're new to prayer or have been praying for years, we'd love for you to join us as we gather to pray and grow together in our walk with Jesus. Learn more at www.ccbcfamily.org/mondays.



IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE The process is quick and easy—scan the QR Code to start.