



**“Blessings Part 2-” 11-13-16**



Please catch recent sermon series at our website [www.ENJOYLWC.com](http://www.ENJOYLWC.com)  
Also find the “BEACON Devotional” at the website.

**We like to start with something funny each week:** I heard about an elderly lady who was close to dying. She had never been married, so She called her pastor over to discuss what she wanted at her funeral. She abruptly said to him, “I only want women paul bearers” For which the pastor looked at her strangely and said, “why?” The woman replied, “The men didn’t take me out when I was alive, I don’t want them to take me out when I’m gone!”



We have a tradition: Grab your Bible and hold it up today:

**“THIS IS MY BIBLE**

**I am what it says I am!**

**I HAVE what it says I Have!**

**I CAN DO what it says I can do!”**

**Today I WILL be taught the Word of God,**

**I boldly CONFESS: My Mind is Alert,**

**my Heart is Receptive, I will NEVER be the same, In Jesus name. (Pray)**



Last week we talked about “The Blessing of God’s PRESENCE!” Moses took time to get in his TENT ALONE WITH GOD so he might experience the **“The blessing of GOD’S PRESENCE”/ And then share that presence by being in the moment with people ☺**



**Today, in Part 2, we want to talk to you about “The blessing of God’s Encouragement!”**

First off- what is **DISCOURAGEMENT?** = **it is a loss of confidence or enthusiasm;** (could happen in hunting – not seeing anything. What comes right after discouragement??? **QUITTING!.)** Discouragement can lead to **FAILURE.**

What else **ALWAYS** causes discouragement:

- **Sin** (if you are looking to feel encouraged but keep sinning- good luck!)

- **Distraction** from God and into trivial matters (Facebook! CNN! People's empty opinions) will cause discouragement

What IS Encouragement:

**Biblical Encouragement** = is the act of **receiving** God's support, God's confidence & God's hope! .

Again in this series we focus on Moses second 40 years. (His first 40 was in Egypt- at the end of those first 40 years MOSES was so discouraged with the slavery of God's people to the point that he **"killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand."** (Exodus 2) SIN!



**But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian.**



(Picture from Bible of his trip to current day Arabia- Midian)

When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well. (A meeting place in community)

*Galatians 4:25 Now Hagar stands for Mt. Sinai in Arabia.*

**40 YEARS in Midian - God gave Moses essentially a 40year time out. There he met his wife Zipporah and his father in law, Jethro.**

**Anyone feel like you are in the MIDDLE of a 40 year sentence?**

- Maybe you feel dogged by something you have done?
- Perhaps you just feel like you are IN A DROUGHT! You are dry. Stale.
- Or do you just feel Emptiness of exhaustion bringing DEFEAT?



### Exodus 3

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law (40 years after fleeing Egypt), Jethro,<sup>[a]</sup> the priest of Midian. He led the flock far into the wilderness and came to Sinai,<sup>[b]</sup> the mountain of God.

<sup>2</sup> There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the middle of a bush. Moses stared in amazement. (Come on! Work with me! If my podium caught fire right now you would "STARE IN AMAZEMENT!") Would GOD have your attention in that moment?? **Though the bush was engulfed in flames, it didn't burn up.**<sup>3</sup> "This is amazing," Moses said to himself (animated! Say it again in loud whisper!) "Dude! That is Righteous! Is this happening!?". "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go see it."

People like to ask "What's your burning bush in your life? How does God get your attention?"

- There is never another burning bush (well, one that didn't burn up!)
- Moses wasn't looking for a burning bush! Stop looking for a sign and say "then I will follow God!"

- When God gets your attention next time (with whatever HE USES!) .... Do this:



**4** When the LORD saw **Moses coming to take a closer** look, God called to him from the middle of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” (in other words! There are some burning bush moments that we shrugged off as “that shiver was God!..... naw” and you carry on and miss Him say “your name” )

“Here I am!” Moses replied.

**5** “Do not come any closer,” the LORD warned. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground.

**Illustration: Here’s where I get TOUCHED BY GOD!**

- When I turn on worship music! And praise HIM!
- When I take TIME IN HIS PRESENCE.....shh. ! He needs our focus FIRST!

**Then it happens! THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOD!**



**9** Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. **10** Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.” (WHEN God encourages, He gives birth to DIRECTION!)



**11** But Moses protested to God, “Who am I to appear before Pharaoh? Who am I to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?” (Before you judge Moses! Last week when God said “I want you to do a special in church.” Or “I want YOU to start a mens Bible study “ ... what was your response? Did your insecurity flare? )

**12** God answered, “I will be with you. And this is your sign that I am the one who has sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God at this very mountain.”(in MIDIAN)



**14** Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses and he said, “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. Exodus 4:14

but Moses didn't know that God had sent him. The blessing of encouragement was on the way... You can trust God...He knows what you need before you even understand your need...Your blessing of encouragement is on the way.

**PC:** God has blessed us with His Encouragement...we receive God’s confidence, support, and hope...but not just so we can enjoy the blessing and be thankful for the blessing...It goes a step further....



## I AM BLESSED SO I CAN BLESS OTHERS



2 Corinthians 9:8 says **And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. -II Corinthians 9:8 NLT**

**So we are not blessing hoarders.** God has blessed us with his encouragement, and we have the opportunity to bless to others with our encouragement!

**Encourage one another and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

So Moses has received encouragement from God. And he heads out with his family to Egypt. In the meantime....his brother Aaron is already on his way....wondering why he is going to meet Moses.



### Exodus 4:27-31

**27 The Lord said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him. (a common greeting in that culture) 28 Then Moses told Aaron everything the Lord had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform. (So we see that Moses encourages Aaron....our people are not to be slaves forever)**

So Moses and Aaron travel back to Egypt where the rest of the Israelites are...



**29 Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, 30 and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, 31 and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped. (the blessing of encouragement travels from Moses, to Aaron, to the rest of the people.)**

**We need to pass on the ENCOURAGEMENT we have received from God.**



### 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (Darby Translation)

**3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassions, and God of all encouragement;**  
**4 who encourages us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to encourage those who are in any tribulation whatever, through the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged of God.**

Original Greek word for "ENCOURAGEMENT" - paraklésis - also translated "comfort" (very similar to the Greek word used to refer to the Holy Spirit) (Paraclete)

Paraklesis literally means a personal call (or urging) that is used of the Lord directly motivating and inspiring believers to deliver His particular message to someone else. So built into the original word is the idea that the encouragement God give us is meant to be passed on!

Early this past week, God brought a verse to my attention. Isaiah 26:3-4



Isaiah 26:3-4 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal.

I had to studied it, wrote it in my journal, learned the meaning of some of the original words and felt so encouraged by this verse. It helped me so much that I thought about the verse throughout the day...and I found that I was bringing it up in conversation with other people....and it encouraged them.

When we depend on God for our encouragement, it naturally overflows to those we come into contact with.

When Paul wrote his 2nd letter to the Corinthian church he was going through some difficult times. After explaining some of the hardships, he said:



<sup>6</sup> But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus. <sup>7</sup> His presence was a joy [that's what we talked about last week "the Blessing of Presence"], but so was the news he brought of the encouragement he received from you. 2 Corinthians 7:6-7 (NLT)

God encouraged Titus through the Corinthian church....Titus then carried the blessing on to Paul and the people that were working with him at the time.



- What encouragement have you received from God...that God wants you to share with someone around you?
- How did God help you through a difficult time in your life? Do you know someone that is going through something similar that would be encouraged if you came alongside them?
- Have you overcome a bad habit? How can you use that experience to bring encouragement to someone else who may be struggling?



**Blessed with the Encouragement of God  
Enjoy the blessing - BE THE BLESSING**

**PR:** What encouraging things are happening in our lives right now? (Great responses in service!)

Let's all pray this out loud together repeat after me "*Lord Jesus (repeat), forgive me of my sins (repeat), come into my heart (repeat), I make you my Lord and Savior (repeat).*"

**Romans 10:9** "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

### Extra info:



**Illustration MAP (do you really think he took the flocks of Jethro some 200 miles up around Red Sea and down to current "Mt Sinai peninsula" ??? ROAD TRIP YA'LL!)**

When Queen Helena, mother of Constantine the "Great," chose Jebel Musa in the Sinai Peninsula as the site of the Biblical Mt. Sinai, the Christian world blindly assumed this to be true!

**by John D. Keyser**

It has become customary since the time of Constantine the Great for the majority of the Christian world to accept the area of the Sinai peninsula for the location of the biblical Mt. Sinai. Unknown to most, the REASON this location was selected rests solely with the opinions of one man -- the Roman emperor Constantine the Great (c. 280-337 A.D.)