



MOSES Díes
Deuteronomy 34

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 34:10

“But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Small cardboard tablets (to represent the Ten Commandments), a stick (representing Moses' staff) and a pair of sandals (to represent Moses at the burning bush).

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Faithful Service

As you begin to teach, choose four or five students who would like to volunteer to serve you. Tell them to stand up and hold some things for you (it could be the trash can, ruler, your Bible). You can also be creative and come up with some “strange” requests but do not tell them why you are asking them to do this.

At some later point in the lesson, use this as an illustration. The children who were the servants did the request no matter how strange it seemed. We are called to be faithful to everything that the Lord asks us to do, even if it seems strange to us. As we will see in our final lesson on Moses, he was a faithful servant to the end. We will review his life of faithful service to the Lord in today's lesson. **Let us serve God with faithfulness.**

LESSON TIME!

In this last chapter of Deuteronomy, the life of Moses comes to an end. Warren Wiersbe once said, “When your time comes to die, the important thing is not the grandeur of your funeral but the greatness of your life. In fact, how you live now will determine how you will die then.” **Let us serve God with faithfulness** as did Moses.

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-4

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan,

all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,

the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

Moses climbed to the top of Mount Nebo where the Lord showed Him all of the land He would give to the children of Israel—the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Remember, Moses had failed to represent God’s heart to the people at the waters of Meribah; and as a consequence of that sin, he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. God is always faithful to keep His promises, and though Moses could not enter, he now beholds the land God had promised and is assured of the future of the nation he loved and led out of bondage.

DEUTERONOMY 34:5-8

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.

Moses died. The Lord buried His righteous servant in a valley in the land of Moab. No one knows where he was buried, but it was somewhere in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor. This was the valley where the children of Israel camped while Moses gave them the instructions and blessing from God (Deuteronomy 5:33).

Moses was 120 years old when he died, and yet he exhibited strength and vitality until the day he went to be with the Lord. The children of Israel mourned for thirty day for Moses. They recognized His years of faithful leadership and undiminished love for them. He would be greatly missed.

Note, Moses was not called the Pharaoh of Egypt as he could have been, he is called, “the servant of the Lord.” How much greater to be a servant of the Almighty God than even a Pharaoh in Egypt! In the book of Hebrews we are told, “Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season...” (Hebrews 11:24-29). We, too, can choose to be a servant of the Lord. Someone once stated, “Only one life will soon be past; only what’s

done for the Lord will last.” May the temporary things of this world never allure us away from pursuit of what will matter in eternity. **Let us serve God with faithfulness.**

Simon Says

Play a short game of Simon Says. Use it to illustrate faithfulness to obey only what Simon said.

Moses was faithful to obey everything that the Lord asked him to do. God desires us to be faithful too.

DEUTERONOMY 34:9

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Joshua, another faithful servant of the Lord whom Moses had trained, would now be the leader of the children of Israel. Remember, Joshua was one of the spies who brought back an encouraging report to enter into the land God had promised, not fearing the difficulties (“giants,”) to overcome. Joshua was an older man, now; yet God had been preparing him through many experiences with Moses for this important call on his life. We read that he was “full of the spirit of wisdom.”

Though we may not see God’s full purpose and plan for each of us unfold tomorrow, or even twenty years from now, we can be confident that God is working and preparing us to fulfill His calling. **Let us serve God with faithfulness.**

We also see an interesting picture of God’s salvation in our story, today. We see that Moses brought Israel to the borders of the land, but died and could not take them in himself. Moses, through whom the Lord gave the Ten Commandments to Israel, represented

the Law. In Hebrews 7:19, we read that “...the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.” Unable to attain to the righteous standard of law, we remain on the border of the Promised Land—“the rest and peace” we could enter into. Joshua was a type of Jesus Christ, the “better hope,” who would do for us what the law could not do; now made righteous through of faith in Jesus Christ, we can enter into God’s full richness and the blessings.

In other words, we can never get to the place that God wants us to be by being a good person or by keeping all of the rules of the Bible or the law. Now, in Christ Jesus, we are “accepted in the Beloved.” (Ephesians 1:6). Having met God’s righteous standard, through our faith in Jesus Christ, God now works “inside” of us to make us what He wants us to be. He enables us to do what we cannot do in our own strength. Romans 7:6 states, “But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”

The Children of Israel recognized the authority was now upon Joshua and gave “heed” to him.

The scriptures now reflect on the life of Moses.

DEUTERONOMY 34:10-12

But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Not only was Moses a righteous man, he had an intimacy with the Lord that no one else at that time had. The Bible describes Moses, “whom the Lord knew face to face as a friend” (Exodus 33:11; Numbers 12:7, 8). Moses was used by God to do miraculous signs, wonders, and awesome deeds. He was used by God to lead the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, to deliver His law to His people, to build the Tabernacle, and much more. Yet, the greatest thing said of him was that he was the “friend of God.” Through Jesus Christ, we can now experience a special friendship and intimacy with the Lord.

Moses was a great example of a faithful servant of God who devoted himself to fulfill God’s calling on his life. God desires to use each of us who will commit our futures to Him. May we, as Moses did, turn from the things the world offers, become intimately acquainted “friends” with God, and devote ourselves wholly to His will for our lives. We, too, can be faithful servants of God! **Let us serve God with faithfulness.**

A Lifetime of Example

Bring some props that help indicate the ways Moses was faithful to God in his lifetime. For example: Bring in some small cardboard “tablets” with the Ten Commandments on them and have a child stand and hold it up. Remind them that Moses faithfully went up the mountain and spent 40 days receiving the commandments from God.

Bring in a stick to represent a rod and have the children guess which acts of faithfulness it represents (dividing of the Red Sea, water from the rock, turning into a snake, etc.)

You can also bring in sandals that a child can place on the ground in front of him reminding the class of Moses’ early faithfulness at the burning bush. Try to think of one or two other ways to illustrate faithfulness.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to faithfully serve the Lord all of their lives. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.