

Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. It is an honor to have you worshipping with us today! This information is provided to help you feel welcome and "at home."

Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship some people remain seated, some stand, others kneel, many clap, and some lift their hands. The outward expression is not the issue - it is what is in your heart that counts. Just relax and enjoy the presence of God.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{turn page over}

HEROES MISS IT TOO

"Messing Up God's Big Dream"

Acts 7:24-25

*In your faith journey to becoming Christ-like,
you will undoubtedly make some poor choices.*

- The issue isn't that you made a wrong choice; but rather, it is in how you respond after you mess up.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 "He has planted eternity in the human heart."

- That dream is about building God's kingdom and bringing glory to Him.
- What do you do when you have misinterpreted or messed up something?

1. A HOLY MAN WITH A BAD INTERPRETATION

- Child psychologists have said for years, "the child is the **father** of man."

- What can a child learn in those first few early years?

Acts 7:22 [Moses was later] "educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action."

Hebrews 11:24-26 "... he ... refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

- After turning 40, Moses finally acted upon the big dream God had planted in his heart. But he made the common mistake of misinterpreting it to be more about himself and his timing than about God's.

Acts 7:24-25 "He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not."

2. A HOLY MAN GOT A DREAM-LIFT

- Have you ever sinned in such a way that it sent you into a deep spiritual stall in your faith journey, such as happened to Moses?
- Moses' sin didn't change God's plans for him.

• But God did have to send him to grad school in the desert where all his prestige, power, position, and knowledge were of no value.

• Listen to how Moses' mind had been transformed.

Exodus 3:11 “Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’”

Exodus 4:1 “What if they do not believe me or listen to me ...” v10 “O Lord, I have **never been eloquent**...I am slow of speech and tongue. v13 “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.”

Exodus 4:17 “... take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”

• Moses' core values still had to be purified.

Exodus 4:24-25 NLT “On the way to Egypt, at a place where Moses and his family had stopped for the night, the Lord confronted him and was about to kill him. But Moses' wife, Zipporah, took a flint knife and circumcised her son.”

• If you have stalled in your spiritual journey, please understand, God is **not finished** with you yet.

3. A HOLY MAN LIVING HIS ETERNAL DREAM

• Moses went on to fulfill his big dream of setting God's people free, plus he became a prophet and law-giver, but it was very different from what he first expected.

What have you learned today about the pathway out of a spiritual stall and its effect on God's plans for you?

• It is very easy to **misinterpret** the big dream God puts in your heart, so avoid becoming inflexible about it.

• Sin, or missing God's timing, doesn't change God's plan for you.

• There is great joy and satisfaction when you choose to come out of a spiritual stall.

Acts 20:24 NLT “my life is worth **nothing to me unless** I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

Strengthen your journey with Christ by realizing that no matter how you have failed or stalled in your journey, God is eager to help you. Take responsibility and choose to get up and move on so you can realize the joy God has for you as you move toward becoming what He has purposed for you to be.

- Digging Deeper -

“Heroes Miss It Too”

For personal or small group study

Week of May 3, 2009

What impacted you the most from the sermon or sermon notes? What impression has it left upon you?

GROUP DISCUSSION or PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Have you ever messed up or misinterpreted something big in your life? Describe how you felt and how you responded to it.
2. In what ways can bad choices affect you in your faith journey toward becoming Christ-like? What are some of the bad choices we commonly tend to make? Why is our response more of an issue than the actual wrong choice? Did a poor choice you made in the past precipitate a spiritual stall in your life? How?
3. Read about these Bible characters and how they messed up or misinterpreted God's plan for them. Discuss how they responded and what God's response was to them. [**Moses:** Acts 7:20-36; Exodus 1:29 – 2:15; 3:1-12; **Samson:** Judges 13:24-25; 16:13-21, 30; **King Saul:** 1 Samuel 13:13-14; 15:9-11]
4. Get into groups of two or three, search the Bible and come up with some other people that can help mentor us by how they responded when they messed up and/or misinterpreted God's plan for them. Find at least one from both the Old and New Testaments. [Hebrews 11 may give you some Old Testament ideas] What can we learn from their life stories that apply to us today?
5. What have you learned about the pathway out of a spiritual stall and its affect on God's plan for you? What is God saying to you about when you mess up and make poor choices? How do you see God working in your life? [Genesis 50:19-21; Joshua 24:14-16; Job 42:1-6; Acts 20:24; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15]