

Good morning! One of the main struggles we Christians have is that, once we finally figure out what God wants us to do, we try to do it in our own strength. As Paul reprimands the Galatians (3:3), "After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?" The answer to that one is YES - We do this all the time! That's not what God has in mind for us, though. Nothing we are called to do in faith can be accomplished by our own strength, no matter how talented or skilled we might be. This week, let's try to get out of that trap by exploring the rocky ministry of Moses. Today, let's look in on Moses as a young adult. As we enter the story, he is becoming more aware of his mission and is trying to figure out how to get started, when an opportunity seems to present itself:

Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. He went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, "Why are you striking your companion?" But he said, "Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known." When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.

Ex. 2:11-15

Moses, if you will recall, was a pretty big deal in Egypt. He was the adopted son of the Pharaoh and, as such, seemed well placed to get things going. He was well educated, politically well placed, and should have been influential. He seems like the perfect guy to get the Hebrews released. As he strolled along, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew and thought, "Enough of this. I'll fix that!" He killed that Egyptian, looked around to make sure nobody was looking, and then hid the body. In other words, the method he came up with for solving the slavery problem was, as my friend Jim Newsom says, "One Egyptian at a Time." Later, when Moses saw two Hebrews arguing, he confronted them and they revealed that they knew all about it---and they weren't especially impressed with him. "What are you going to do---kill us like you killed that Egyptian guy?" That's when Moses realized he didn't have a workable plan and decided it was time to go on the run. Moses knew his mission but he went about it in his own strength. By the way, that's just what you and I do, don't we? God has something better for us! We'll end here today but we'll return to our story tomorrow. Let me encourage this morning you to think about this: God really does have something for you to do, but you cannot do it on your own!