

False Starts

RE-Start, RE-Fresh, RE-New.

Again, Moses comes to mind as we begin to consider False Starts and our need to RE-Start.

- When we look at Moses we could no way look at his finish and see the beginning, nor could we look at the beginning and in any way see the finish.
- His life began with a false start and yet he finishes amazingly well!
- Remember: The Hebrews were in captivity at this time and Pharaoh was the leader of the Egyptians and the Hebrews and had decided because of the numerical growth of the Israelites that every newborn Hebrew male child must die.
- Then along comes Moses! Exodus 2:1-4
- There was no way this child would live to see adulthood, not to mention the next day, with the dangers faced on land and on water.
- And if the plot couldn't have got any thicker, look at verses 5-6...
- The last person you would want to find your infant boy as a Hebrew woman was the daughter of Pharaoh.
- In Exodus 2:7-15 you could preach for an hour just on the Supernatural!

Now, we need to hear the passage that addresses this in Acts 7:20-36.

It's hard to hear Moses' life and think false start because we know the rest of the story which is an extraordinary finish! But, can you imagine anyone having a more difficult start?

- So often we look back on our lives and say "If you had gone through what I have gone through you would understand why I am where I am right now!"
- "If you understood all the pain and all the hurt and all the tragedy in my life you would lower your expectations about my future!"

Consider what you have gone through, does it really compare to Moses?

- Can you imagine being raised in a generation where there were no males who were his peers?
- He grew up in a holocaust! Every single Jewish boy was killed except for Moses.
- Knowing in his heart and soul he was a Hebrew, knowing he looked different than every other boy his age, realizing that he was given a name that was different than his lineage.

- Who could have guessed that God would choose this individual to be the founder of the nation of Israel when he was raised in the wisdom of the Egyptians?
- This was the man that would personify what it meant to live in relationship with the living God who had lived his first 40 years worshipping pagan gods.
- Who would have guessed that God would entrust him with the care of the 10 Commandments when it clearly states, “Thou shalt not murder.”

No wonder Stephen says, “This is the same Moses!” All of us need this transitional phrase in our lives!

“This is the same (Insert name)...”

That the person who was, doesn’t disqualify you from the person who will become.

Maybe having had so many false starts, so many mess ups, so many failures, you have allowed your life to be defined by your worst moments rather than the moments that are yet to come. Maybe you have jumped the gun because life hasn’t come to you the way you thought it would or should.

- Sometimes our greatest mess-ups happen when we are trying our hardest to do our very best.
- I am not saying you don’t believe in God or trust in God, but in the practical, everyday nitty-gritty reality of life it is so hard to trust God with our lives, isn’t it?
- Many “jump the gun” by believing sex and love are the same thing, when intimacy is traded for something superficial.
- Even in the areas of success and wealth, many are desperate to make millions, and they do, only to get caught and later say, “I knew what I was doing was unethical, I just didn’t know it was illegal” but really they knew! It’s Moses all over again...glancing this way and that and seeing no one; he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.
- Have you ever noticed that you don’t “Glance this way and that” to make sure no one is going to see you do something good?
- It is when we are about to do something that violates our conscience, God’s Word, our core values, that we look to make sure no one is watching. Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

Remember: the end never justifies the means! God is as interested in the way you get there as He is that you get there. There is a reason the Scriptures say, “Wait on the Lord.” There is a reason the Scriptures say, “Be still and know that I am God.” The things that come fast and easy will take you down fast and easily.

Or, maybe your false starts have left you paralyzed in your tracks.

- You are stuck in your tracks, you have messed up so many times, you have failed over and over again, and you've blown it!
- You are trapped, defined by all the worst of your past failures.
- You are afraid to start over again!

At least when you jumped the gun, you were giving it your best effort.

But now that you are paralyzed and stuck in your tracks there is no possibility of a positive outcome.

No matter how many false starts you have had, no matter how many voices have said you will never change and that your life will never be any different, today you can be free from all of those voices that are trying to define you by the worst of your life.