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Moses: Seeking Justice

Exodus 2:11-25

War, racism, poverty, the denial of human rights—these are only a few of the bitter fruits of injustice that fill our world. Remedies to such complex problems have ranged from the nonviolent protests of Martin Luther King Jr. to the present-day insurgent movements in Latin America.

GROUP DISCUSSION. How do you respond when confronted with injustice?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. What issues of social justice move you to prayer or action today? Why?

Moses confronted the unjust social, political and economic system of Egypt. He had enjoyed the privileges of living in the pharaoh's palace since birth. Yet God placed within him a hatred for oppression and injustice. When he was forty years old, we observe him intervening to bring about justice for his people. *Read Exodus 2:11-25.*

1. What might have been some of Moses' feelings and motivations before, during and after the incident?

2. What does Moses do to try and help his fellow Jews (vv. 11-13)?

3. Despite his sensitivity to the injustice he witnessed, why is the particular action he takes wrong?

4. What mistakes have you made in a genuine effort to right a wrong?

5. Moses was raised in an environment of opulence, power and knowledge. What did it cost him to get involved?

What will be (or is) the cost for you to get involved with injustice?

6. How was he misunderstood by the very people he was trying to help (vv. 14-15; Acts 7:25-28)?

7. How does Moses again demonstrate an active concern for justice when he arrives in Midian (vv. 15-17)?

8. How does Reuel's reaction to Moses' aid contrast to that of the Hebrews?

What happens to Moses in Midian as a result (vv. 21-22)?

9. Moses spends the next forty years with the Midianites. Meanwhile the Israelites "groaned in their slavery" and cried for help. Describe God's response in verses 24-25.

10. Reflect on Moses' experiences in this chapter. How might each one have prepared him for leading God's people out of Egypt?

11. What experiences and training has God given you that could be used in the future for furthering his purposes?

12. There are many areas of injustice today: racism, neglect of the poor and needy, abortion. What one unjust situation might God be calling you to help change?

Pray that God will give you clear direction, courage and a sense of his timing.

Now or Later

Reflect on Jesus' teaching on the final judgment and how it relates to our involvement with the poor, the needy, the prisoner, the sick (see Matthew 25:31-46).