

Series: The Life of Moses

C. R. 10-15-17

“In The Crosshairs”

**Text:** Numbers 11:4-9

**Intro:** We have learned an awful lot about the leadership of Moses in the past few weeks. Moses without a doubt is a Godly leader who desired to please God. He longs to spend time with God and because of this he is indeed a marked man. It is the same for us as well. If you long to grow in the Lord and have intimacy with the Almighty your face will be posted on the walls of Hell’s post office. 2 Timothy 3:12 teaches us that everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted. Peter said that the enemy prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Many of you can testify that when you made a decision to follow Christ wholeheartedly you that you have faced challenge after challenge. I want us today to take a look at the dangers we face as we serve the Lord and long to please Him.

Any large group of people who wants to walk with God always seems to attract a smaller group who lacks any such desire. Scripture calls this latter group, “the rabble.” You know what the Hebrew word for “rabble” means? It means “riffraff.” God really knows how to tag a certain group, doesn’t He? You might call these folks “the carnal corral.” Swindoll, Charles

There will be opposition for sure and it will come from all sides. It will come from places you least expected. But you are not alone, and you and I have been given everything we need to fight the battle and win the war.

Let’s look together at the dangers we face in the crosshairs.

**1) The Danger of Discouragement and Depression**

- a. Talk about the scene here. The complaining, the crying, the whining.
- b. No matter how passionate you are, or how Godly you are you can only listen to this sort of thing for so long until it drags you down.
- c. They keep talking about the old days and you are trying to move into the days ahead.
- d. Moses for sure shows us his humanity here.
- e. **Read Numbers 11: 14-16**
- f. The fact is that as soon as any group gets large enough, the riff raff will show up.

- g. There will always be a group of people who are just not that into it. They will not be as interested in growth and discipleship as you are. Some not interested at all in pleasing God.
- h. If we are not careful this group will get the best of us. They will drag us down and we will find ourselves depressed and discouraged.
- i. If we focus on the cries of the rabble we will stay discouraged.
- j. An exhausted Elijah once muttered similar words beneath a scrawny tree in the wilderness. Jonah said the same thing under a withered vine outside the walls of Nineveh. Both were ready to quit; both asked the Lord for a quick death. But the Lord refused to take the life of Elijah or Jonah, and He wasn't about to take Moses' life, either. But He did take care of the problem. Swindoll, Charles R.. Great Lives: Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication (Great Lives Series) (p. 290). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.
- k. Moses was burning out so the Lord answered him by spreading out his work load.

## 2) The Danger of Ego

- a. **Read v.26-29**
- b. These men were telling Moses that this was his job, and he needed to put a stop to it.
- c. They were jealous for Moses' role. They thought that he was the only one.
- d. Moses let them know that that is not the case and there was not one ounce of jealousy in his bones.
- e. Some people have been led to believe that they are indispensable.
- f. If you have been gifted for service and God is using you the enemy has no problem feeding your ego. He will make sure that you feel as though you are the only one.
- g. You may find yourself thinking "Why are they teaching? I could teach better than that. I started this so I couldn't possibly turn it over to someone else.
- h. **Swindoll:** Everybody can afford to step down if God's enthroned".
- i. An old poem warns of this danger: Sometime when you're feeling important, Sometime when your ego's way up; Sometime when you take it for granted that you are the prize-winning "pup"; Sometime when you feel that your absence would leave an unfillable hole, Just follow these simple instructions, And see how it humbles your soul. Take a bucket, fill it with water, Put your hand in it up to your wrist. Now pull it out fast and the hole that remains Is the measure of how you'll be missed. You may splash all you like as you enter, And stir up the water galore, But stop and you'll find in a minute, It's right back where it was before. Swindoll, Charles R.. Great Lives: Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication (Great Lives Series)

### 3) The Danger of Being Misunderstood

- a. Read **Numbers 12: 1-3**
- b. Here Moses brother and sister seem to not like the choice that he has made for a wife.
- c. So instead of talking to Moses they talked about Moses, and the Lord heard it.
- d. God then calls a meeting **Look at chapter 12: 6-9**
- e. God then sends a clear message about how he feels when this happen **Read v. 10**
- f. Moses responds by praying for her healing.
- g. Numbers 12 is a great reminder about how God will protect the godly.
- h. Let me assure you, you will be misrepresented. You will be misunderstood. But when that happens, don't try to cover all the slanderous things said against you. Let God be your defense. Swindoll, Charles R.. Great Lives: Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication (Great Lives Series)
- i. Note: If you don't know the facts talk directly to the person or better yet not at all.
- j. I am appalled by what some people say about the individuals others choose to marry. One of the saints of the last generation lost his wife and after a few years of being alone, he married a woman several years his junior. Some nosey busybody came up to him and said, "The nerve! How could you have the nerve to marry somebody that much younger than you?" And in his gravelly voice he answered, "Listen, honey, I'd rather smell perfume than liniment any day."

### 4) The Danger of Rejection

- a. In Numbers 13 we have the famous passage of the spies that went into the land
- b. Moses had to be excited about their report but it didn't take long for the people to reject the whole idea of it.
- c. The people didn't want Canaan and they didn't want Egypt either.
- d. **Read Numbers 14:10**

### 5) The Danger of Revenge

- a. **Read Numbers 14:11-10**
- b. Again, Moses had to be tempted to say O.K Lord let them have it.
- c. But his response is again to plead with God on their behalf.
- d. This is a great danger to us in the day of social media. We want to exact revenge and it is so easy to do with the typing of just a few harsh words.
- e. I have this same battle with the pulpit. Many time the pulpit is used for as a weapon for revenge instead of a sacred instrument for truth.

Our great hope and assurance is that greater is He that's in us.....

