

Time #4: Moses – Setting my Clock with God’s Clock Is Difficult

Acts 7:17-25

Introduction:

- A. Annual cost of running red lights (in medical bills, car repairs, etc.): \$7 billion. Average amount of time saved by running a red light: 50 seconds (U. S. Department of Transportation, cited in *Hope Health Letter*, 2/96).
 - B. Some things can’t be hurried – Recently I saw this bit of graffiti: “Michelangelo would have made better time with a roller” (*Journal of Religious Speaking*, p. 55).
 - C. Whatever change we make, we are exchanging the minutes and hours and days of our lives for our choice. We must ask, “What accomplishment is worth swapping my life for?” (*Leadership*, p. 44).
 - D. Moses is one of the heroes in Hebrews 11. Hebrews 11:24-27
 - E. In reading those summaries, I have often missed the tension and the time involved to learn some lessons that can be helpful to me. Romans 15:4
 - F. In Moses’ life, notice how GST and HST were often different.
 - 1. Moses was sometimes ahead of God.
 - 2. Moses was sometimes behind God.
 - 3. Moses was sometimes with God.
 - 4. God’s time is right.
 - 5. Moses can help me learn to set my clock with God’s clock.
1. Moses was ready to go to work for God when he was forty years old. Acts 7:20-29; Exodus 2:11-15
- a. God was late according to HST, waiting another forty years. Acts 7:30
 - i. God was still on the same schedule that He had discussed with Abraham and Isaac. Exodus 2:23-25; Genesis 15:13-16; Genesis 26:1-5
 - ii. When God, was ready, Moses wasn’t.
 - (1) Moses wanted to know what would be different this time from the last time he tried.
 - (a) “Who am I?” Exodus 3:10-12
 - (b) “Who are You?” Exodus 3:13-15
 - (c) “What if I am not prepared?” Exodus 4:1-4,6-9
 - (d) “I have other problems.” Exodus 4:10-13
 - (e) “It’s time – trust Me!” Exodus 4:14-17
 - (2) Setting the clock is difficult.
 - (a) When Moses was 40, he had enthusiasm, assertiveness, commitment – but God wasn’t ready.
 - (b) When Moses was 80, God was ready, but Moses was hesitant and afraid.
 - iii. Am I willing to fit into God’s schedule?
 - (1) Will I wait 40 years for my prayers to be answered?
 - (2) Will I trust God to keep His promises for 400 years?

- (3) Since I live with fast computers, pagers, cellular phones, FAX machines, and E-mail, will I require God to speed up if He is going to work with me?
 - (4) Will God have to do better with me than He did with Moses to deserve my faith?
 - (5) Since cars, airplanes, space shuttles, and pentium chips are faster today, does God work faster or slower today than He did with Abraham and Moses?
 - (6) Should I try to fit into God's schedule or should I expect God to fit into mine?
- b. After leaving Egypt, God gave them the Ten Commandments. Exodus 20
 - c. God asked Moses to come up to the mountain to receive the official copy. Exodus 24:12
 - d. Moses and Joshua went up, leaving Aaron and Hur in charge. Exodus 24:13,14
 - e. Moses was gone forty days. Exodus 24:18
 - f. The people became impatient, thinking God was late, and decided to help God. Exodus 32:1-6
 - g. God wanted to destroy the people. Exodus 32:7-14
 - h. Moses became angry, broke the stones. Exodus 32:15-19
 - i. He called Aaron into account. Exodus 32:20-24
 - j. The people were punished. Exodus 32:25-35

Conclusion:

- A. GST works better than HST. Hebrews 11:28-30
- B. Moses and Jesus teach us to wait for God – to have patience, endurance. Hebrews 12:1-3
- C. It's good to wait when God says "Wait," and move when God says "Move."
2 Corinthians 6:1-2