

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

14 CR 3240, at the intersection of FM 1402 N. (Mailing Address: P.O. Box 523), Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, (903) 572-0859

Church Website: www.churchofchristoakgrove.com or, www.ogcoc.net

David A. McCain, Gospel Preacher & Bulletin Editor, (903) 285-1756 (M)

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Meek Moses' Misrepresentation

Please don't let my title mislead you. I'm not down on Moses, nor is my intent to "dis" him as the kids say. To the contrary, I hold Moses in high esteem, because the Holy Scriptures set him apart as an incomparably righteous and upright man. After all, his given name was enshrined as one of the sixteen notables in "Faith's Hall of Fame" (Hebrews 11).

Of course, like all human beings, except for Jesus, Moses was flawed and subject to the frailties of the flesh. Nevertheless, the Bible has many complimentary things to say about him. Truly, he was one of the greatest men of ancient and modern times, perhaps the most accomplished leader of God's people of all times, other than Christ Himself. In point of fact, so significant was his work as deliverer and lawgiver that Jesus was said to be a "prophet like unto Moses" (Deut. 18:15-18 and Acts 3:22 & 7:37).

The Bible records the fact that Moses was extremely meek, at least the meekest man of his own generation, if not of all eras (Num. 12:3). So, was it false modesty or low self-esteem which caused him to "sell himself short," at the burning bush incident (Ex. 4:10)? Perhaps he was just one of the first of a long line of reluctant servants of the Lord, like Gideon and Jonah (see Judges 6:11-40 and Jonah 1:1-3)? I'll give him the benefit of the doubt and just chalk it up to humility, mixed in with a little fearfulness, considering the circumstances of him being selected by God to represent the great "I AM," as His "Ambassador" before mighty Pharaoh.

However, despite Moses self-deprecating estimation of his own abilities, or lack thereof, the truth of the matter was Moses had more talent than he realized. Or, so proclaimed an inspired New Testament preacher, by the name of Stephen, when he said, "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds" (Acts 7:22).

The moral of the story seems to me to be - when it comes to doing great things for God, don't "sell yourself short." Humility is surely a good thing (Jms. 4:10 & 1 Pet. 5:6), and pride will ultimately lead to our destruction (Prov. 16:18), however neither false modesty nor low self-esteem will serve us well. We are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) and can do amazing things for God if we will say, "hear am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8). You can accomplish great works for God just like Moses. So, why not quit making excuses for why you can't do what God wants you to do in His name, and just get busy "blooming where you are planted!"

David A. McCain