

The Surrender of Moses to God's Call: The Fruit of Obedience Exodus 04: 18–31

1. *Obedience,*

then God's assurance

a. Moses' obedience:

He asked permission to return to Egypt — to see his family

- 1) He did not mention God's call
- 2) Jethro granted permission

b. God's assurance:

The way was prepared;
all who sought his life
were now dead

2. *Obedience,*

then God's guidance

a. Moses' obedience

- 1) He made a permanent move to Egypt: Moved his family
- 2) He took the rod of God:
Just as God had instructed

b. God's direction:

His guidance and instruction

- 1) Go to Pharaoh:
Perform all the miracles
- 2) But know:
Pharaoh's heart will be hardened:
he will not let the people go
- 3) Declare the LORD's Word
 - Israel is my son, my first-born
 - Let my son go:
That he may serve me
 - If you refuse, God will slay
your first-born son

18 Then Moses went back to Jethro

his father-in-law and said to him,

“Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive.”

Jethro said, “Go, and I wish you well.”

19 Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian,

“Go back to Egypt,

for all those who wanted to kill you are dead.”

20 So Moses took his wife and sons,

put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt.

And he took the staff of God in his hand.

21 The LORD said to Moses,

“When you return to Egypt,

see that you perform before Pharaoh

all the wonders I have given you the power to do.

But I will harden his heart

so that he will not let the people go.

22 Then say to Pharaoh,

‘This is what the LORD says:

Israel is my first-born son,

23 and I told you,

“Let my son go, so he may worship me.”

But you refused to let him go;

so I will kill your first-born son.’ ”

**3. Obedience,
then God's hand of chastisement
was removed**

- a. God chastised Moses:
Was about to kill him
- b. The reason:
Moses' wife had objected
to circumcision and Moses had
given in to his wife
- c. Moses' wife circumcised
their son, but in disgust
- d. God removed His hand of
chastisement and saved Moses

**4. Obedience,
then God fulfilled His promise**

- a. Aaron's call and obedience
 - 1) God called Aaron:
He obeyed God
and went to meet Moses
 - 2) Moses shared with Aaron:
Shared God's call
and the miraculous signs
given him to do
- b. Moses' and Aaron's obedience:
They gathered together
all the elders of Israel
 - 1) Aaron shared
what God had told Moses
 - 2) Moses performed
the miraculous signs
- c. God's promise was fulfilled —
just as God had promised:
The people believed
and bowed down
and worshipped

24 At a lodging place on the way,
the LORD met Moses
and was about to kill him.

25 But Zipporah took a flint knife,
cut off her son's foreskin
and touched Moses' feet with it.
"Surely you are a bridegroom
of blood to me," she said.

26 So the LORD let him alone.
(At that time she said "bridegroom of blood,"
referring to circumcision.)

27 The LORD said to Aaron,
"Go into the wilderness to meet Moses."
So he met Moses at the mountain of God
and kissed him.

28 Then Moses told Aaron everything
the LORD had sent him to say,
and also about all the signs
he had commanded him to perform.

29 Moses and Aaron brought together
all the elders of the Israelites,

30 and Aaron told them
everything the LORD had said to Moses.
He also performed the signs before the people,

31 and they believed.
And when they heard
that the LORD was concerned about them
and had seen their misery,
they bowed down and worshipped.