Life Group Study Notes
“The Path: Come and See”
Pastor Peter - June 16, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)
Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.
• What’s your favorite ride or activity at a theme park?
• Do you prefer the beach, the mountains, or the city for a vacation?
• When you go to a new city, what is the main attraction you want to see?

Word (10-15 minutes)
Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org
Dr. Brene Brown has said that a great story involves three sections:
• The Call to Adventure
• The Messy Space
• The Other Side

The great challenge or difficulty in the plot comes when the idealistic or romantic notion of the adventure crashes to the ground in the face of the twists and turns of real life. Circumstances beyond our control change our course. Things don’t turn out the way we thought they would. Disappointment, hurt, and frustration can come to grip our hearts and stamp out hope.

Proverbs 13:12 ESV Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.
Proverbs 13:12 MSG Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around.

Moses went through this experience. His life was miraculously spared as a baby. He was raised with great privilege and favor in the Pharaoh’s court. He was well educated and became an accomplished leader in Egypt. By the age of 40 he came to grips with his Israelite identity and sensed his divine purpose to do something for his people. This was his “call to adventure.”

In his own strength he came to the rescue of a fellow Israelite who was suffering injustice at the hands of an Egyptian. Moses killed the Egyptian and became a hunted criminal. He fled Egypt and went to Midian. There he became a lowly servant of a sheep farmer, which is ironic since shepherds were viewed as an abominable profession by Egyptians. Forty years Moses lived in Midian caring for his father-in-law’s sheep. All of his hopes for making a difference in the lives
of his fellow Israelites seemed to be dashed to the ground. These many, long years were his “messy space.”

The turning point for Moses that led to “the other side” is recorded in Exodus 3:1-12 (ESV):

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

In God’s wisdom Moses was prepared for his ultimate purpose both by his upbringing in Pharaoh’s court and by his many years in the Midianite wilderness. It was only after all those many years that Moses had the knowledge, abilities, and leadership skills acquired in Egypt, but was also stripped of his proud, self-reliance. Without his time in Midian he would not have been prepared to trust God as he would need to.

In the end God’s purpose for Moses to rescue his people was fulfilled through him, but not in the way Moses had imagined so many years before. God knew what he was doing.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)
Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Where do you find yourself at the present time in God’s story for your life?
- What do you find inspiring, challenging, or encouraging about your present situation?
- What do you believe God is saying to you at the present time about your life’s journey?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)
Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for being watchful over your life even when you are not aware of it.
- Ask God for his perspective on where you are at in your life’s journey.
- Ask God whatever you need to do his will at the present time.