

71.3 Act Your Age

My birthday is coming soon, and I have been reflecting on my life and age. It occurred to me that when Moses was my age, he had become an expert shepherd in the deserts of Midian after he fled for his life from Egypt. Not only was he tending sheep, but he had also been doing so for about 30 years. In almost a decade, God would call Moses from the burning bush to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage.

Moses spent forty years in Pharaoh's court, believing he was to deliver the Hebrews from slavery. Stephen reminded his violent audience of this fact in **Acts 7:23-29** (NKJV):

²³“Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel. ²⁴And seeing one of *them* suffer wrong, he defended and avenged him who was oppressed, and struck down the Egyptian. ²⁵For he supposed that his brethren would have understood that God would deliver them by his hand, but they did not understand. ²⁶And the next day he appeared to *two of them* as they were fighting, and *tried to reconcile them*, saying, ‘Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?’ ²⁷But he who did his neighbor wrong pushed him away, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?’ ²⁸Do you want to kill me as you did the Egyptian yesterday?’ ²⁹Then, at this saying, Moses fled and became a dweller in the land of Midian, where he had two sons.

Moses ran ahead of God and fled to Midian. When he was eighty, he began his work as a deliverer and lawgiver. He spent the last forty years of his life living out God's intentions for Him in God's timing. Stephen further recounted in **Acts 7:30** (NKJV):

³⁰“And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

We tend to glamorize Moses' years of leading the Hebrews and think of his great privilege and fame because of it. However, if we were to talk to Moses, we would probably hear a different perspective. Moses dealt with the complaints, ingratitude, and fears of the Hebrews. He struck the rock at the end of his career instead of speaking to it, and, as a result, God kept him from entering the land He had promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Moses had been on a face-to-face, friend-to-friend basis with God, but his reckless nature consumed him. Moses lashed out at the people and struck them symbolically in the rock as he had done eighty years previously when he killed the Egyptian overseer.

While Moses sinned in his disobedience, some scholars believe God did him a favor and relieved him of his burden. God led Moses up to the top of Mount Nebo, allowing him to watch the Hebrews as they entered the land under the supervision of Joshua.

I want us to consider that Moses may have made excuses to God, but he did not opt-out of God's service due to his age. At some points in life, we may feel that we are too young to serve God, but then we look at young David or Timothy and realize that is not true. We may then bounce to the other extreme and think we are too old, but Moses shows that to be untrue. The challenge is to obey God at every station of life with whatever opportunity or ability He has given us.

We often think of our Founders as a group of stodgy older men sitting in a dark room discussing the possibility of Liberty. When our leaders signed the Declaration of Independence, the signers' ages ranged

from Thomas Lynch, Jr.'s and Edward Rutledge's twenty-six to Benjamin Franklin's seventy. The average age of those men was approximately forty-two, and they stepped up to the opportunity God gave them. They did not wait until they were older or excuse themselves because of age. They acted with what was before them. That is all God ever asks any of us.

Overall, Moses faithfully served God and eventually entered the Promised Land at the Mount of Transfiguration in **Matthew 17**. Instead of entering the Land, Moses went to be with God as a reward for his service. Paul had a similar issue as Moses. Listen to his words in **Philippians 1:21-24** (NKJV):

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Paul and Moses understood the tension between wanting to go and be with the LORD and doing what the LORD has commissioned us to do. Maybe you feel the same way and are tempted to sit back and wait for your time to depart this world and be with the LORD. Our Founders didn't procrastinate and neither did our heroes of faith.

Jesus gave our marching orders to make mature disciples in **Matthew 28:18-20** in what we call the "great commission." We must "occupy" or "do business" until He returns (**Luke 19:13**). There is no time limit on our work and no retirement from it. We live 100% of the time resisting evil and advancing the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. We obey God rather than men, regardless of the cost.

Our Founding Fathers risked their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor for the holy cause of Liberty and our unalienable rights. Those same Founding Fathers embraced the word of God as a guide to their lives and their cause. As a result, they established a nation on its principles.

In the latter years of her life, my mother developed dementia and could not interact with us. She spent her days watching the Game Show channel on television. She had a legitimate excuse at that point, but the rest of us do not have the luxury of dismissing our responsibilities to God. Some of our fellow believers do as my mother and fill their days, letting the "tell-a-vision" "program" them day in and day out. I trust you are not among the "programmed" but are thinking for yourself and actively fulfilling God's will in your life.

The issues we are facing today are too important to ignore. We have no excuses for the lack of involvement in this spiritual conflict. If you are not involved in the fight for freedom in Christ, begin with prayer, and pray for God to show you what we are facing. Then pray for victory over the darkness enveloping our land. Read, study, and share the message of God's word. While we have doubts regarding whom we may believe today, the Bible is always true. Know it and share it so people can wake up to the reality of this struggle with evil. Keep in mind that your age is of no consequence to your calling.

Keep The Light of Ageless Faithfulness Burning!