

I'm an Instrument for God

Deuteronomy 34:10

Sermon Notes · October 4, 2026

Opening question: Who wants to be used by God? If you're a follower of Jesus, your hand should be up. God wants to use you in a significant way.

- Moses was the greatest leader of the Old Testament. No prophet has risen in Israel like him (Deut 34:10).
- God used Moses because he settled four of life's greatest controversies. Every one of us has to settle them too, and they determine the direction, significance, success, and satisfaction of our lives.

Controversy #1: I must decide who I am

Hebrews 11:24

- Moses was born a Hebrew slave but raised as an Egyptian in Pharaoh's court. He had to choose between his Hebrew roots and Egyptian royalty.
- He was a man of integrity. He refused to live a lie or be someone he wasn't, and didn't let peer pressure change his identity.
- Hebrews 11:24: when grown, he refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
- We carry so much stress because we try to be someone we're not to meet other people's expectations. God made you to be you, and living as He wants takes that stress off.
- Psalm 139:15–17: God saw you being formed, and all your days were planned before you were one day old.

Controversy #2: I must stop blaming others

Hebrews 11:25

- Stop making excuses and stop seeing yourself as a victim. Life isn't fair; this is earth, not heaven.
- Hebrews 11:25: Moses chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.
- **First refuse, then choose.** In v.24 Moses refuses; in v.25 Moses chooses. The Christian life isn't just a list of don'ts. Rejecting the negative must be followed by accepting God's plan.
- God chose Moses, but Moses had to choose God. Your future is determined by your choices.
- Spiritual maturity is when you stop blaming others. Immaturity blames and makes excuses.
- You can't control many circumstances, but you can always control how you respond to them and to people.
- **Nobody can ruin your life without your permission.** Will you throw a pity party or work through it?

Controversy #3: I must decide my priorities

Hebrews 11:26

- Moses "regarded" (weighed, judged the value of) disgrace for Christ as worth more than Egypt's treasures, because he was looking ahead to his reward.
- If you don't decide what's important, other people will decide for you.
- The world's value system in four words: **prestige, power, pleasure, possessions.** Moses walked away from all of it. These things won't last.
- Right order: **God, family, ministry, then everything else.**

- If you say yes to God, you'll have to say no to other things. Trying to live for Jesus and the world at the same time leaves us lost, stressed, and miserable. Compromise only makes you miserable.
- Keep living that way and you will break; either God or your schedule will break you.

Moses' three values:

- 1 God's purpose is invaluable
 - 2 God's people are invaluable (following Christ is fulfilling, but not always comfortable; we often want to serve only when it's convenient)
 - 3 God's peace is invaluable
- Your priorities are determined by your vision. Are you living on your own throne? You'll be dethroned.
 - Philippians 3:8: Paul had the same vision; everything else is worthless compared to knowing Jesus.

Controversy #4: I must decide who's in control

Hebrews 11:27

- Matthew 6:24–26: You can't serve two masters.
- Hebrews 11:27: Moses left Egypt without fearing the king's anger. He persevered because he looked to the One who is invisible.
- God will ask you: who was #1 in your life? What matters isn't what others say about your life, but what God says.
- God gave you the choice: be your own guide or let Him guide you.
- **The secret of perseverance is vision.** Moses never gave up, through 40 years in the desert, another 40 leading Israel, and not even entering the Promised Land. Get in line with God's vision for your life.
- What do you plan to do with the rest of your life? Make it count, or be ordinary? We're not waiting on God; God is waiting on us.
- 1 Kings 18:21: How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him.
- Joshua 24:14–15: As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
- Look what Moses gave up, and look what he gained. Nothing is better than living for the Lord.

Where do I start?

- Invite Jesus Christ to take charge of your life
- Take Here & Now classes
- Join a house church and be consistent (never cancel HC)
- Come to Sunday service every week
- Bring VIPs
- Study the Bible
- Just start doing something; get involved at church

Question for Reflection

Honestly rate your top 5 priorities in order from the most important to the least. Who's honestly in control of your life? You or God?