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THE LIFE OF MOSES – LESSON 9

MOSES' FIRST FAILURE

In Exodus 4:19-28 we see Moses leaving Midian to go to Egypt as God had told him to do. He took his wife Zipporah and two sons on the journey.

Verse 24 (KJV) says something that sounds like God would be defeating his own plan. It says, ***“And it came to pass by the way (route) in the inn, that [Jehovah] met him, and sought to kill him.”*** How could a dead Moses free the Hebrew slaves? It obviously means something beyond our understanding as written.

The Amplified Version gives a rendition that is better for our understanding. It reads, ***“Now it happened at the lodging place that the LORD [Jehovah] met Moses and sought to kill him [making him deathly ill because he had not circumcised one of his sons]. Then Zipporah took a flint knife and cut off the foreskin of her son and threw it at Moses’ feet, and said, ‘Indeed you are a husband of blood to me.’ So, he let Moses alone [to recover]. At that time Zipporah said, ‘You are a husband of blood’ because of the circumcision.”***

Moses had been negligent in circumcision, which was a sin of omission. It had to be made right with God. His wife knew what had to be done, so she took care of it. Circumcision was the mark of God’s covenant with Israel.

Moses would later fail again in this same matter. All the males, young and old, that he led out of Egypt had been circumcised while still in Egypt. However, during the forty years of wilderness wanderings, none of the males born in the wilderness had been circumcised. This was a failure in Moses’ leadership. Joshua would have to have them all circumcised after he led them across Jordan into Canaan and before they could go any further into the land.

Have we, like Moses, ever been negligent in the things of God? Have we always done what He requires or expects of us? I am sure we all have had our failings. Let us make it right and not leave it for someone else to fix for us.