



## THE POWER OF CONTENTMENT By: David W. Lankford

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We take our scripture test from **Exodus 2:16-21**, "Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flocks. And the shepherds came and drove them away: and Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock. And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon today? And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock. And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? Why is it that ye have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread. And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter". Moses had just fled Egypt because he had slain an Egyptian soldier, who he witnessed beating one of his brethren, a fellow Israelite. In the natural, the life of Moses was one of uncertainty, but in the eyes of God it was one of certitude. The life of Moses presents a series of striking antithesis or contrast, to say the least. He was the child of a slave, yet he was the son of a Queen. He was born in a hut, yet he lived in a palace. He inherited poverty, yet he was subjected to untold wealth. He was educated in the courts of Egypt, yet he dwelt in desert places. He had the wisdom of Egypt, yet he possessed the faith of a child. He was tempted with the pleasures of sin, yet he endured the hardships of virtue. He was backward in speech, yet he spoke with God. Facing a plethora of uncertainty, the scriptures declare that he was content. The word content here in the Hebrew has a very special meaning: it means, "the making up

of one's mind to commence a certain activity". What was the activity that Moses would soon commence? He would lead the people of God out of Egypt's bondage. I want us to first notice the humble beginnings of Moses. In verse 17, we see that Reuel had seven daughters and they had come to water their father's flock. The water here represents Christ and these shepherds at the well represent false shepherds who come to drive the people of God away from the water of life, which represents Jesus Christ. Jesus said in **Matthew 7:15-16**, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits."? Jesus also declared in **Matthew 24:11**, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many". As I previously stated, the water in our scripture text represents Jesus Christ. Jesus said in **John 6:35**, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst". Jesus also declared in **John 7:38**, "He that believeth on me, as the scriptures hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water". And of course the prophet Isaiah declared in **Isaiah 12:3**, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation". We see that Moses stood up and defended the daughters of Reuel along with watering their flocks. A true shepherd stands and defends the gospel of Christ; he does not compromise the message of Christ, and neither does he pollute the message of Christ. Jesus gave us many warnings about false shepherds in the time of the end. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:5**, "For

many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many". Paul himself described the false shepherds and how they twist the Word of God here in **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:17**, "For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God". Also here in **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:13-15**, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works". We see the power of Paul's admonition to his son in the faith Timothy found in **2nd Timothy 4:1-4**, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables". Moses, being a type of our Lord Jesus Christ, delivered Reuel's daughters from the hand of these false shepherds. Even though Moses had not yet begun his great mission in delivering the nation of Israel, he was already being challenged and prepared for that final task. We see here that Moses in his humble beginnings only delivered seven souls, which were the daughters of Reuel. You may feel God has you in a place where you're not being used, but this is a test so that God can promote you to even a greater place and stature in the body

of Christ. Do not despise your humble beginnings, neither where Christ presently has you. You must first demonstrate faithfulness over small things before God can suffer you to be over greater things. Jesus said in **Luke 16:10-12**, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's who shall give you that which is your own"? So many times people feel that God needs to promote them, however, have you been faithful over the small things He has already entrusted you with? Moses was faithful in that he stood up and drove away the false shepherds, watered the flocks of Reuel, and delivered his seven daughters. Deliverance was the key component in Moses ministry. The Lord would ultimately use Moses to deliver the nation of Israel from their bondage and afflictions. We too preach deliverance here at The Voice of Evangelism. The psalmist declared in **Psalms 34:4**, "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears". The psalmist also encouraged us in **Psalms 34:7**, "The Angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them". And of course the renowned passage in **Psalms 34:19**, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all". It is the responsibility of true shepherds to water the people of God. We read in **2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 15:3**, "Now for a long season Israel had been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law". The word teaching here in the Hebrew simply means, "a minister who waters and irrigates the people of God with the water of

Christ Jesus so the believer may grow in grace and in knowledge". True Christians seek out real men of God who proclaim the truth without compromise. The question in our text from Reuel was a very simple one: **where is he?** Reuel wanted to know where Moses was because he had defended his daughters, watered his flock, and delivered his daughters from false shepherds. Reuel was desirous to meet Moses and to reciprocate with him. Reuel was grateful for the leadership and labor that Moses demonstrated toward his seven daughters. Whatever ministry or minister is feeding your soul with the true bread of life then you should reciprocate and bless that ministry, whoever that might be. Paul said in **Galatians 6:6**, "Let him that is taught in the word communicated (or give back financially) unto him that teacheth in all things". Paul also went on to say in **Galatians 6:10**, "As we therefore have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith". It is needful that we as Christians sow into the Kingdom of God that we might reap the blessings of the Lord. When Reuel was told of what Moses had done for his seven daughters, he was desirous to bless the man of God. In closing, the scriptures have shown us that Moses was a man of contentment. The scripture says here in **Exodus 2:21**, "Moses was content to dwell with the man (Reuel)". Remember the word content here in the Hebrew means "the making up on one's mind to commence a certain activity". Though it would be nearly 40 more years before the Lord would ultimately use Moses, he was being prepared for his great task and mission. Many of you reading this newsletter need to learn to be content where God has placed you. Paul the apostle declared in **Philippians 4:11**, "Not that I speak

in respect of want for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content". Sometimes it can be difficult to be content where one is: that's why Paul said "I have learned", sometimes contentment must be learned through experiences and trials. It will be through your past experiences and trials that you learn to be content. Often times the people of God pray for deliverance when the Father wants to develop us. That is why it takes great patience in being content. Moses had to wait nearly another 40 years for the great task that God had called him to. Remember the words of Christ found in **Luke 21:19**, "In your patience possess ye your souls". The man of god was learning to be patience, along with being content. You will often times find there are two tents within your life, one of contentment and the other of discontentment; which tent will you live under? May the Lord God of Abraham faithfully order your steps here in these last days. We are very grateful and thankful for you blessing the ministry this month. It is by your giving that the message of Christ is able to go literally around the world through The Voice of Evangelism. We are always thankful for your prayer and support for the ministry. Serving with you faithfully in His Word.

Serving With You All,

Pastor David W. Lankford