

# CHAPTER 8

# FINISHING STRONG

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FAILURE THAT EQUIPS YOU TO FINISH

# INTRODUCTION

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- We must keep our eyes on the finish line and not on our failures.
- Failures must equip us to finish.
- He who has never failed cannot be great. Failure is the true test of greatness. Micah 7:8.
- Our case study today is Moses. His life can be divided into three chapters of 40 years each. The first 40 years, he was a success. The middle 40 years, he was a failure, the last 40 years he was finally fit for the Master's use.
- He needed to pass through God's tutelage to be fit to lead the children of Israel out of 430 years of bondage and to give them the Torah.

# OUTLINE

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- MOSES EGYPTIAN BACKGROUND AND LEARNING
- THE MIDIAN HILTON (Change of address and change of status)
- MOSES WENT BACK TO SCHOOL FOR MCA(Masters in character acquisition)
- COURSE 1- Unemployment 101
- COURSE 2- Advanced Obscurity
- COURSE 3- Remedial Waiting
- COURSE 4- Intermediate Loneliness.
- THE BOTTOM LINE/ CONCLUSION

# MOSES' BACKGROUND

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- He was born to Israelite parents who were slaves in Egypt. God's divine agenda made him to be adopted by Pharaoh's daughter who raised him in the palace as her child. ( Exodus 1, 2)
- He was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and deeds. ( Acts 7:23). He went to the best schools and was trained as a military man. He was on top of the pyramid of success. Nothing could stop him.
- At age 40, he was stopped by his impulsive act of killing an Egyptian. He fled. Acts 7:23-28.

# MIDIAN HILTON

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- Moses had a change of address from the opulent Pharaoh's palace to the desert of Midian.
- He had a change of vocation and status, from being a statesman and military leader to a shepherd leading only sheep. Imagine the emotional and person identity crisis he must have gone through.
- He was human so he must have felt dejected, lonely, abandoned, betrayed by the Israelites he wanted to save.
- He was a type of our Lord Jesus Christ who suffered rejection by the Jewish nation.
- Are you wounded, have you suffered a setback, a betrayal? Don't despair. God has enrolled you in a course you did not sign up for. If you remain teachable, He will make you finish strong.

# M.C.A.DEGREE

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- Although Moses felt dejected and alone in the desert, God's hand was with him as He was with him when he was in the basket by the river Nile.
- God was about to take him through a course in character development so he can be fit for divine purpose.
- He went through 4 courses for the Masters Degree in Character Acquisition.

# UNEMPLOYMENT 101

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- He was very busy serving Pharaoh and had great influence in Egypt for 40 years. Suddenly, he was out of job, on the run and alone. It was a time of suffering. If you have ever been out of job and unable to meet up your commitments, you can relate. Moses had no idea how long the unemployment would last. He could not plan. But God had a plan for him.
- The suffering and uncertainty during this period qualified him for ministry.
- Whatever hardship you are going through now is equipping you so you can comfort and encourage others with the comfort you received. 2 Cor 1:4

# ADVANCED OBSCURITY 002

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- He went from somebody to nobody. Comfort and position of Egypt and shepherd in the desert of Midian had no comparison. He was obscure, unknown.
- He helped to water the flock of the priest of Midian and assisted his daughters to fetch water. Moses learnt humility and submission.
- Good character has to be learnt, by thought, by choice, courage and determination.
- God has a plan and purpose when he puts you out of circulation and into obscurity for a season. He is building your character for greatness ahead.



# REMEDIAL WAITING 003

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- Moses was in a hurry to deliver the Israelites when he was 40 years old.
- God is not in a hurry when He is building our character. Most of us think it can be done in a hurry. Character development comes before ministry. Isaiah 28:10. Precept upon precept, line upon line. It is not a crash programme.
- Are you waiting for marriage, to conceive a child, for employment, to start a business. For the Nigeria of our dreams? Be patient to learn what God wants you to learn while you wait. James 1:3. Trial of faith produces perseverance and patience.

# INTERMEDIATE LONELINESS OO4

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- Moses was separated from his natural and adopted mother and family. He was lonely. The isolation drew him nearer to God.
- Loneliness is tough. Prolonged loneliness can affect someone physically. Don't be a loner or isolated.
- However, intermediate loneliness is beneficial. Create time alone with God for character development and to know Him better.

# CONCLUSION

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- Have you experienced setback in your marriage, career, health, finance etc?  
Are you struggling with failure and rejection?
- Do not be dejected. You are not a failure. God is taking you through some courses on character development. There is only one way to earn a Masters of Character Acquisition and it is through hardship.
- May we all graduate gloriously from this course and finish strong in Jesus Name.