



Walnut Street Church of Christ  
306 Walnut Street  
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## **Vertical Limits – Lesson Three**

### **Mount Nebo**

### **The Way To Accountability – Moses Views**

### **The Promised Land**

**(Numbers 20:1-13, Deuteronomy 34:1-6)**

***Theme: Vertical Limits:*** God both made and used Mountains and we are using Mountains to gain some great Bible Lessons. God said, “And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.” (Isaiah 49:11) This Vertical Limit lesson deals with Jesus in the Garden. Jesus walked the Glory Land Way as He was totally submissive to the Heavenly Father. The Way To Glory is also available to all who would chose to walk that way!

What you do for Christ is governed by what you are. Moses was a man of great character and spiritual strength. He was a very meek man who kept his focus on Jesus. In the Book of Hebrews we read, “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.” (Hebrews 11:23-27)

The reason for Moses' greatness was his meekness. The Bible says of Moses, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3) Moses was not at all self-centered. "Truly great men, seldom know they are great." All of God's servants must be meek. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

***At the age of 80 God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage.*** Moses is remembered for his involvement with the 10 plagues that were brought upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians to cause them to allow Israel to leave their land. (Exodus 7-9) At the command of God, Moses lifted his rod and the Red Sea was divided. He then led the children of Israel through the sea on dry land. (Exodus 14) God led them to Mount Sinai where he gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. Moses sent 12 spies to check out the land of Canaan. (Numbers 13) They said of the land, "We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it." (Numbers 13:27) The spies said they should not try to go up to the land because the people there were giants and the Jews were grasshoppers. (Numbers 13:28-33) Their unbelief caused them to have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Those years brought many hardships and they also brought the death of almost all the Israelites that left Egypt. Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter because of their faith. "Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me: Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD." (Numbers 32:11-12)

***The children of Israel complained about many things while they were in the wilderness.*** The children of Israel complained about water. (Numbers 20:1-13) God told Moses to take his rod, but he was to speak to the rock to obtain the water. Sadly, "And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." (Numbers 20:11-12) Moses did not lose his soul, but he did lose the

opportunity to lead Israel into the Promised Land. He did not become bitter, nor did he give up the work of leading the people. However, he accepted the fact that he could not enter Canaan. “He said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.” (Deuteronomy 31:2) Moses was still in good health, but he knew he could no longer be their leader. “And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.” (Deuteronomy 34:7) He missed some great blessings because of that single act of disrespect and disobedience. Disobedience also robs us of many blessings.

***Moses assured Israel of God’s blessings and leadership as they entered the Promised Land.*** He did all he could to encourage them and be a blessing to them. He said, “The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said. And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed. And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you. Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” (Deuteronomy 31:3-6) Moses knew that, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1) Joshua was selected to lead Israel after the death of Moses. Moses encouraged him to be a courageous leader for God. “Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:7-8) Joshua became one of the greatest leaders in the Bible.

***Going up the Mountain to die there:*** “The LORD spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying, Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession: And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as

Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people: Because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel. Yet thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.” (Deuteronomy 32:48-52) What a trip that must have been when Moses went up that mountain to stand before God and die. But, before his death he was allowed to see the land to which he had been leading the people for the last 40 years. Before his death Moses had instilled in Joshua the courage and encouragement to conquer Canaan. For forty years the care and burden of the Israelites had been upon the mind and heart of Moses. Now God said, “Come home My Servant!”

***Lessons learned and points of interest about the Death of Moses on Mount Nebo:*** (1) Moses was warned, 40 years before his death, that he would not be permitted to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River. “Thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.” (Deuteronomy 32:52) (2) God always keeps His promise. “The LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.” (Numbers 20:12) (3) There arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. (Deuteronomy 34:10)

In Deuteronomy 34:4 we read, “So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.” To become a servant of the Lord you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus as the Christ (Hebrews 11:6), repent of all sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ as Lord (Matthew 10:32) and be baptized to be saved. (Mark 16:16) After baptism, keep on serving God so he can call you His servant. God Himself buried Moses in an unknown grave in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor. (Deuteronomy 34:6)

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