

God's Calling Requirements
Part 42
The Circumcision of the Son of Moses

1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee. 2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. 3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it. 4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. 6 And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. 7 And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. 8 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. 9 And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land. 10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. 11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. 13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. 14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. 15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. 16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. 17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs. 18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace. 19 And the LORD said unto Moses in Midian, Go, return into Egypt: for all the men are dead which sought thy life. 20 And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the rod of God in his hand. 21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go. 22 And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: 23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn. 24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision. 27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses

told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: 30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.” (Exodus 4:1-31 KJV)

Moses in God's calling to him he was reluctant to respond to the calling of God had he had placed over his life to go to Egypt to deliver God's people from the hands of Pharaoh. Therefore, God faced his excuses by equipping him with signs and wonders, so he will go forward and do what he was asked to do.

But even when God offered all that to him, Moses put forward to God another excuse, that he is not fluent in speech, “*10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.*” God here explained to him that he will help him and put words in his mouth. But even with that, Moses asked God to send someone else instead of him. Upon this God was very angry and he told him that He will send his brother, Aaron, to be with him and Aaron will be the one to help him in delivering the word of God to the people. Moses when he heard that, he moved forward with his wife and two sons to go to Egypt. *18 And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father in law, and said unto him, Let me go, I pray thee, and return unto my brethren which are in Egypt, and see whether they be yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.* Possibly he was happy that finally he will meet his brother Aaron after a long time of forty years.

Further God assured him, that all the men who were after him were dead and now the way is open to him to go back safely to Egypt. *17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.* God even here told him to take his shaft with him to do the signs, as if God was thinking that Moses may keep it behind so he will have an excuse to go back. It seems that Moses had some stubbornness that God knew it before hand and he was dealing with him.

On the way the following had happened, *24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him. 25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.* The following questions will be put forward:

- 1- Why God wanted to kill Moses, as in Verse 24, after he moved to Egypt and was willing to obey God and do what God asked him to do?
- 2- Why God did not kill Moses, as in Verse 26?
- 3- What is the explanation of what Zipporah did in circumcising the son of Moses, as in Verse 25?

Why God wanted to kill Moses, as in Verse 24, after he moved to Egypt and was will to obey God and do what God asked him to do? Because Moses did not circumcise his son, although he knew that he needed to do that. It is not possible that he will move to the mission field to go and deliver out the people of God from under the hand of Pharaoh, while he did not do what

God required him to do for his family. The command of the circumcision was given by God to Abraham as a covenant, ***“10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. 11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. 12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger*, which is not of thy seed. 13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”*** (Genesis 17:10-13 KJV) Circumcision will give a clear sign in the flesh that the child is Israelites. That was the covenant of God with the Israelites. Therefore when Moses did not do that to his son, he was breaking his covenant with God. Did Moses know that? Yes, he knew it. Why then he did not do? May be he was reluctant, keep postponing, or stubborn. Moses being in the atmosphere of Median, being away from the people of God, he might get cold to abide with God’s instructions especially he was surrounded with people who do not know God well, and even his wife was not in the same faith of Moses, and even she might be refusing Moses to do the circumcision for his sons. That is why we keep admonish you and teaching you to be always with the people of God so that your love to God will be more genuine and your obedient will be more profound and clear. God also commanded Joshua to circumcise the Israelites, those who were born in the wilderness, who were not circumcised, before he would lead them into the Promise Land, ***“2 At that time the LORD said unto Joshua, Make thee sharp knives, and circumcise again the children of Israel the second time. 3 And Joshua made him sharp knives, and circumcised the children of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. 4 And this is the cause why Joshua did circumcise: All the people that came out of Egypt, that were males, even all the men of war, died in the wilderness by the way, after they came out of Egypt. 5 Now all the people that came out were circumcised: but all the people that were born in the wilderness by the way as they came forth out of Egypt, them they had not circumcised. 6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. 7 And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. 8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. 9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal unto this day.”*** (Joshua 5:1-9 KJV) The people of God without discipline are in reproach, the same as the people of God without circumcision in the Old Testament.

Why God did not kill Moses, as in Verse 26? Because God achieved his purpose and the son of Moses was circumcised.

It was not enough for Moses to get circumcised in his flesh, but even his sons should be circumcised so that the covenant with God will remain. We need to discipline ourselves as well as to discipline our children. In the New Testament this is the command of God in regard to circumcision, ***“11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:”*** (Colossians 2:11 KJV) The meaning of it is to put off the body of sins of the flesh.

Circumcision of the sinful nature done by Christ; Christ is the head of the church and we his body, church and parents, workers and minister, should work with Him to discipline ourselves, our children and our disciples. ***“29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”*** (Romans 2:29 KJV) The heart should be clean and a place for the Holy Spirit to dwell in. ***“4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.”*** (Jeremiah 4:4 KJV)

What is the explanation of what Zipporah did in circumcising the son of Moses, as in Verse 25? It seems most likely that Moses was in strife with his wife about the issue of circumcision. It seems that she was not agreeing about it. But when the Lord was about to kill Moses, her husband, she realized that God was angry, so out of her fear of God that He is going to strike her husband, she hurried and circumcise her son. God interfered in the life of the family of Moses and imposed himself that His instruction should be fulfilled. Many parents now a day they disagree with one another about disciplining their children, but God would interfere, that His instruction would be implemented in the life of the families that had set their hearts to serve Him and to do His will. Discipline and order inside each and every family according to God’s word is vital for the family to be a good example to others and to attract them to the Lord that we serve.

Some people they said about their children that they are old and beyond the age of discipline and correction. But let us read the life story of Moses in the book of Acts and conclude approximately the age of the son of Moses that Zipporah circumcised.

“ 23 And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. 24 And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged* him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: 25 For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver* them: but they understood not. 26 And the next day he shewed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another? 27 But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust him away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? 28 Wilt* thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday? 29 Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Madian, where he begat two sons.” (Acts 7:23-29 KJV) Already here we read that Moses had two sons. Now if we read the next verse, ***“30 And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.”*** (Acts 7:30 KJV) We can discover that after forty years, after the birth of his two sons, God appeared to him and that was the time that the Lord commissioned him to go back to Egypt.

Therefore from the Scripture we conclude that the time that Zipporah circumcise her son, her son was a full grown man. If she was able to do it to her son, then Godly parents today left without excuse if they fail to control and discipline their old children.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me. 26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision. Zipporah was forced to do that, and that is why she was angry with Moses, as she told him, ***Surely a bloody husband art thou to***

me. As Zipporah was forced to do God's will, the Lord is forcing each and every parent to discipline and deal with the sinful flesh of their children. God do that so that the family and the parents who are serving God they can be a good example to the society that they are serving and are located to live.

If we continue to read the events on the journey of Moses and his family toward Egypt, we can find that they were not with him, when he met his brother Aaron. *27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel:* Zipporah was sent back with the two sons of Moses, most likely because she might not be able to stand the pressure that Moses would face in Egypt when he will confront Pharaoh, and she might react and bring more pressure on Moses. However, at that time, the basic thing that was expected from Zipporah was achieved when she circumcised her son. Further growth and maturity would be expected to be seen in her life in the coming future and as we can read when she once again joined and her two sons with her husband and the people of God, *"1 When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt; 2 Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, 3 And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land: 4 And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh: 5 And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: 6 And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her."* (Exodus 18:1-6 KJV) Ahead of Moses was a great task that needed to be done. People were waiting for the intervention and the deliverance of God. The Lord sent Moses to do that task, but there was a hindrance for Moses to reach Egypt and do the work of God. When that hindrance was removed, the way was open for Moses to reach Egypt and do the work of God.

My dear and beloved: How about you today? Is the Lord is sending you to do the work and you are making an excuses? Is there any hindrance in your life that needed to be removed before you can go forward? Is your family is in order? Is your children are in God's discipline and their hearts are circumcised to God? Commit yourself to the Lord to be willing to go forward and serve Him, to be willing to stand with God and to allow Him to remove whatever hindrance that is affecting your achievement and testimony as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that reminds me to abide and live according to your instructions in the bible. Lord I am willing to go forward with the mission and the task that you had instructed me to do. Lord I commit myself to remove the following hindrances _____ from my life and from the life of my family so that we can good example and testimony to others to see and follow. Lord gives me the boldness and the strength to do that. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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