

# God Sees You

## Exodus 2:16-22

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### A. When no One Else Does (v. 16):

1. They came – The daughters of the Priest of Midian regularly came to the same well to draw water.
  - a) Normally, women would have been shepherdesses only when there were no sons in the family. The disadvantages of this situation are highlighted in this account, where the other shepherds bully the girls.<sup>[1]</sup>
2. They came – Even though Moses was there, no one seemed to pay attention until he engaged.
3. Draw water; Lifted me up – Getting the water from this water hole was no easy task because it was a deep hole.

### B. When You Stand Alone (v. 17):

1. Then came the shepherds – The shepherds also regularly came to the same water hole to get water.

2. Drove them away - The shepherds consistently came to the same water hole and would always aggressively drive the daughter of the Priest of Midian away. They would continuously be treated harshly.

a) Moses's benevolent act of protecting the daughters while they were securing water was the third incident in which he sought to deliver others from harm (cf. 2:12–13).

3. Moses stood up – Moses did not intend to remove himself from this situation until it was completely resolved. He single-handedly fought off (he led an army to victory in Egypt) and did it so effectively that there was no way they would ever interfere with the ladies again.

a) Moses did not need to be invited to help. Just like in Egypt, Moses saw the need and the advantage the shepherds had over the women and stood up for them.

4. Helped; Saved; Deliver - Moses physically, persistently, using his military fighting experience, drove these men away so that these ladies forever would be harmed no more by these men who continually, aggressively sought to harm them.

a) The account of the encounter at the well in Midian in vv. 16–19 tells several things about Moses' character: his flight from Egypt had not blunted his instinct for intervening against injustice and righting wrongs; he was quick to act against oppression, even alone, isolated, and with the odds against him; he was sufficiently imposing and/or assertive to intimidate several shepherds; he was physically vigorous enough to chase off a group of shepherds and then do work that seven girls were planning to do; he was not easily cowed himself; he was generous and helpful to people he hardly knew, acting from principle rather than merely from personal loyalty; and he did not ask for a personal reward for what he had done. <sup>121</sup>

## C. He Makes a Way for You (vs. 18-22):

1. They came – After such a powerful deliverance, the daughters of Reuel came directly to their father to report what had taken place. They had no intention of stopping this process until it was completed.
2. Reuel said – Reuel continuously kept speaking to his daughters, wondering how they could have returned so quickly with everything that was expected of them totally completed.
3. Quickly; hurry – Never before have Reuel's daughters come home with such energy and urgency, ultimately fulfilling their expectations. Moses quickly took care of the shepherds who aggressively attacked these women.
4. They said – They kept speaking to their father repeatedly (seemed like a high level of excitement) about what Moses did. They viewed Moses as an Egyptian, which meant he was still dressed as an Egyptian.
5. An Egyptian delivered us – Moses made every effort to remove the threat of the shepherds from them completely. They would be bothered no more.
6. Hand – The shepherds constantly used their strength to dominate the feeding of sheep at the water hole. They had complete control over the water hole, but not anymore.
7. He drew the water for us; Lifted me up – The water hole was apparently very deep and, therefore, hard to access. However, it did not matter how physically

challenging this job was; Moses willingly accomplished it after decisively defeating these women's aggressors.

8. Said – Reuel continuously kept speaking to his daughters with no intention of stopping until they answered him as to the whereabouts of Moses.

9. Why you left him out there – Reuel, the young lady's father, wanted to know how they could completely abandon Moses, not permitting him to come after he did such a good deed.

a) Three questions in quick succession depict his incredulity, his astonishment, and his shocked disappointment. Then, as though catching his breath, he barks out a command to the daughters to do what they should have done, with no need for prompting from him.<sup>[3]</sup>

10. Invite – Reuel commanded his daughters to specifically communicate to Moses his need to come and eat with the family.

a) Priest of Midian – Reuel (vs. 8), which means “friend of God.” His other name, Jethro (3:1), maybe a title meaning “his **excellency**.”

11. Have something to eat – They invited him to eat, carried the meaning of remaining with them, and he ate with them.

12. Moses was willing - Moses yielded to Reuel's offer and willingly decisively decided to remain with the family indefinitely.

a) Reuel gave Moses his daughter, accepted him for his son-in-law, so that he became not merely a member of his household, but of his family, was adopted probably into the tribe, so that he could not quit it without permission (ch. 4:18), and, so far as his own intention went, cast in his lot with the Midianites, with whom he meant henceforth to live and die. <sup>[4]</sup>

13. Dwell; live – Moses agreed to remain with Reuel and his family permanently. Moses found a new home when he had no place to stay.

14. Given you – Reuel generously committed to Moses that his daughter would permanently be his wife.

a) Moses's desire to help those in need has finally been appreciated. While away from Egypt, he found a home, a wife, and a job.

15. She gave birth to a son – It seems like a short while passed, and God opened Zipporah's womb and delivered a son to Moses and his wife. This represents God's favor upon Moses and his wife. God is repeatedly portrayed as the One who opens wombs (Genesis 20:17-18).

16. I have been – Moses, journeying throughout the land with no end in sight. It did not seem like he had a place to call home.

17. Sojourner – Wherever Moses traveled, he had no rights; he was a foreigner on a constant pilgrimage. This invitation, marriage, and family gave him a place to rest, have a home, and no longer feel like a stranger with no place to go.

- a) For 40 years (Acts 7:30), Moses undertook the toilsome life of a shepherd in the Sinai area, thus gaining valuable knowledge of the topography of the Sinai Peninsula, which later was helpful as he led the Israelites in that wilderness land.<sup>[5]</sup>
- b) God had waited long and been silent, but he had never forgotten nor abandoned his people. He heard ... remembered ... looked and *knew their condition* (RSV).<sup>[6]</sup>

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<sup>[1]</sup> Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000). [The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament](#) (electronic ed., Ex 2:16–19). InterVarsity Press.

<sup>[2]</sup> Stuart, D. K. (2006). [Exodus](#) (Vol. 2, p. 99). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>[3]</sup> Durham, J. I. (1987). [Exodus](#) (Vol. 3, p. 23). Word, Incorporated.

<sup>[4]</sup> Spence-Jones, H. D. M., ed. (1909). [Exodus](#) (Vol. 1, p. 46). Funk & Wagnalls Company.

<sup>[5]</sup> Hannah, J. D. (1985). [Exodus](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 111). Victor Books.

<sup>[6]</sup> Pfeiffer, C. F. (1962). [The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament](#) (Ex 2:23). Moody Press.