

RESET MY HEART - PART 1

Scripture used: [Exodus 32:1-5](#) and [32:21-24](#) (NLT)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon took us through the third sermon in the RESET series as we celebrate the extraordinary life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In our scripture, the Hebrews are overcome by fear and superstition. They have left Pharaoh's subjugation in Egypt but are now adrift and terrified in the Sinai Peninsula.

KEY POINTS

- 1) We make excuses, and want to be liked by others above all else. Our excuses reflect hidden fears more than our true faults. Moses himself protested and pleaded to God when he was tasked to change the destiny of his people. Moses argued that he had many shortcomings and no credibility, thus making him unfit for the mission. In fact, we must recognize why we are making excuses, identify the fears behind the excuses, and redefine the excuse as an opportunity. Often age is an excuse (I am too old; I am too young) while in fact it's an opportunity to identify our special calling.
- 2) Moses left his deputy Aaron in charge while he was away. Aaron shows total refusal to accept responsibility, and blames others & adverse circumstances. Our kids, colleagues, close friends, and spouses often do the same! Some children want to be seen as "perfect children." This comes from fear of failure and being judged poorly by people we admire. Instead, we must own our sphere of influence, and - with God's help - address our limitations.
- 3) We must sacrifice the need to be popular and liked by everyone; and opt to be respected instead and aligned with God's will. There will always be someone who objects to us or dislikes us - we must get comfortable with it. Our need to be liked can so easily take us into behaviors, schedules, and commitments that go against our convictions and authentic needs. We find it exceedingly hard to say, "No." Or, we straddle the fence, just like the Hebrews fell back on worshiping pagan idols, while still trying to have a festival to the Lord. There are times in our lives when God will call us to stand firm with a clear conviction. We can do so in a way that doesn't reject people and remains open to relationship, even with people who disagree with us. It is OK to disagree with people we love. Disagreement does not define an entire relationship.
- 4) Dr. King himself said, "No," when people wanted to hear, "Yes," from him. On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before he was assassinated, Dr. King gave a speech at the Riverside Church in New York City which criticized America's involvement in the Vietnam War and called for social justice. This was a risky and controversial stance that jeopardized Dr. King's fruitful partnership on civil rights with President Lyndon B. Johnson. Dr. King's popularity sank. It was a politically unwise but morally courageous speech. Dr. King knew his work was dangerous, and he faced many threats. His reaction: longevity has its place, but God's work takes precedence as it is the highest aspiration.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Hear the call to reset your heart, in terms of identifying and naming your fears, superstitions, and need for approval and acceptance. Pinpoint ways in which you can own your "domain" and take responsibility for your life. What excuses are you making now that you know are not appropriate?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - When you are tempted to avoid responsibility, are you able to discern the fear that is beneath the temptation? Are you more sensitive to the fear of failure, the fear of disappointing people, or is there another fear that often drives your decisions? Is there an area in your life right now that you sense God calling you to say, "No," or no longer "straddle the fence," or to cease making ambiguous compromises?
- 3) **DO** - Ask for God's help in very specific and practical ways to change your habitual and default behavior, especially as it concerns taking responsibility and choosing to do God's will in your life. Name your excuses, share about your conviction with other people, and ask for God's help in overcoming them!