

1 Whatever Happened to Moses?

- What Ever Happened to Him?

2 Introduction

- It used to be that high school reunions was the only place where you could learn on what happened to that . . .
 - old boy friend, or
 - the football captain, or
 - the geeky kid in the back of the room with his calculator.
- However, today, with the help of modern technology and the Internet, all we have to do is go to a web site.

3 Social Networking

- Social networking is defined as being the act of exchanging information, personal or public, through various forms of technology, such as the Internet, cell phones, and other services.
- Relationships are formed by associations that one holds in common with others.
- Facebook Statistics
 - 800 Million active users
 - 50% log on in a given day
 - Average user has 130 friends
 - Preferred method of communication for college students.

4 Celebrities

- As Facebook is a great way to get in touch with old classmates and old friends, there's also a web site where you can find out what happened to old celebrities.
- The web site is called, "What Ever Happened To?"
- That's right, weht.net is dedicated to tracking down the fate of celebrities who have faded from the public eye.
- On this site people who know, and even those who speculate, can post updates about their favorite celebrities.

5 Whatever Happened To . . .

- Bobby Sherman
- Popular "teen-idol" of the 1960s & 70s.
- Gained international stardom with the hit TV series, "Here Comes the Brides" charting its title song Seattle and following up with more chart toppers such as "Little Woman," "Easy come, Easy Go," "Julie, Do you Love Me?" . . .

- Bobby has fathered 2 sons and has found a respectable niche as a medic/policeman in Southern California.
- He has served as Captain on the LAPD, teaching CPR & First Aid and most recently as Sheriff on the San Bernardino Police Dept.

6 Whatever Happened To . . .

- Mr. Whipple (a.k.a. Dick Wilson)
- Best known as the fussy supermarket manager who was famous for saying, "Ladies, please don't squeeze the Charmin!"
- Wilson's TV credits also included the recurring role of a local drunk on BEWITCHED for nine years.
- Today at 94 years old, Dick lives in Henderson, Nevada where he still receives his complimentary Charmin from Proctor & Gamble each month.

7 Whatever Happened To . . .

- Eddie Haskell (a.k.a. Ken Osmond)
- Ken Osmond played the sickeningly smug and contrite Eddie Haskell on Leave it To Beaver.
- He became an LAPD cop and was once shot 3 times while in pursuit of a suspect.
- His assailant was about to put a final cap in him to finish him off when his partner clubbed the guy with his empty revolver.
- Today he is a vintage car enthusiast and real estate investor. His stock broker is none other than "Leave it to Beaver" co-star, Lumpy.

8 Whatever Happened To . . .

- M. C. Hammer
- "U can't touch this," and few could. The song topped charts in 1990 and earned an estimated \$30 million. At the top of the ride Hammer had a \$12 million dollar mansion in Fremont, CA, 17 luxury cars and a staff of 250.
- "Hammer time" was over by 1996, when \$13.7 million in the red, he declared bankruptcy. After breaking his leg in 1996 and the murder of friend Tupac Shakur, Hammer experienced somewhat of an epiphany and went back to being "a man of God."
- Hammer is now an evangelist. His shows now consist of prayer, preaching and gospel singing. He lives in a four-bedroom home in Northern California with his wife and 4 children.

9 Disappeared

- Some famous people, like their everyday counterparts, just seem to disappear off the map.

- Amelia Earhart, for example, is one of the folks whom Americans have been wondering about for decades, ever since her small plane disappeared in the South Pacific in the 1930s.
- We also don't know what happened to Jimmy Hoffa.
- Nor do we know what happened to D.B. Cooper after he parachuted out of an airliner with \$200,000 in 1971.
- Sometimes people have a knack for falling off the radar. We just don't know what happened to them.

10 Moses

- You might say Moses is the Amelia Earhart of the Bible.
- One day he goes flying up to Mt. Nebo and falls off the radar.
 - No crash site.
 - No grave.
 - No tombstone.
- Israel's' most famous Old Testament figure who brought them out of Egypt and gave them the Ten Commandments is gone.
- Except for the story of Jesus' Transfiguration, no one hears from him again.

11 The Trials of Moses

- And yet, like most great people, Moses was not without his flaws.
- The generation he had led out of Egypt and through the desert for 40 years would die before they reached the promised land.
- Moses would, too, but only because he had given into anger one too many times.
- In Numbers 20:1–13, Moses is again dealing with the grumbling of the people, who want water. God tells Moses to speak to the rock and water will come out, but in his anger Moses wants to prove to the people that he is a powerful leader and thus strikes the rock instead.
- Moses, in effect, usurps God's authority. God tells him (and Aaron), "Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore, you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them" (Numbers 20:12).

12 See but not enter

- While a new generation of Israelites is preparing to cross over the river into the long-awaited promised land, Moses is preparing to step off the stage.
- While he won't put his toes in the water of the Jordan or on the land of Canaan, God does give him one look, one panoramic view of all that the old man had been longing and struggling for all those years.

- Moses could see all the places where the tribes of Israel would settle, and would hear God's covenant promise echoing once again. "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants,'" says God; "I have let you [Moses] see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there" (Deuteronomy 34:4).

13 The Death of Moses

- Moses leaves no famous last words from that last encounter on Mount Nebo.
- The writer of the end of Deuteronomy seems to think this was not really the kind of deathbed situation that often marks the end of a great life.
- Sure, Moses was 120 years old, but "his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated" (v. 7).
- He seemed to have had no problem hiking up the mountain. And yet, in a very understated fashion, the writer says that Moses simply died there in Moab and was buried in a valley, "but no one knows his burial place to this day" (v. 6).

14 Leaving a Legacy

- While Moses didn't leave us a grave, he left us something far better.
- He left us a legacy.
 - A legacy is something that we hand down from one generation to another.
 - It can be objects, memories, ideas, or values.
- Moses' contribution to society has been the Judeo-Christian worldview that has been the foundation of Western Civilization's values for the past several hundred years.
- The Mosaic Law has helped us to know:
 - Right and wrong (10 Commandments).
 - The importance of justice and mercy.
 - That God will hold us accountable for all our actions.

15 America's Prophet

- Bruce Feiler, in his recent book *America's Prophet: How the Story of Moses Shaped America*, writes about how Moses' legacy became a foundational narrative for the American story in many ways.
- Especially in the idea of searching out and finding the Promised Land.
 - Christopher Columbus
 - Thomas Paine
 - Benjamin Franklin
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - John Adams

- Daniel Boone
- Abraham Lincoln

16 Leaving a Legacy

- Poverty is often the result of bad choices.
 - The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. (Jer 31:29 NIV)
- Blessings are the result of good choices.
 - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. (Deut 7:9 NIV)
- If we invest our lives, as Moses did, in being faithful in the present, then we begin to create a future for others that will live long past us, even if our names are one day forgotten.

17 Oakland Mills Church

18 No Greater Legacy

- No greater legacy can one give to the next generation than to pass on their faith and moral values.
- Without them the following generations can struggle each day of their lives and be at a loss on what is really happening to them. They will suffer because no one passed on to them the right kind of values that God blesses.
 - But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. (Prov 4:19 NIV)
- So then whatever happens to us, we know that what we do for God lasts way beyond us, whether it is good or bad.
- Let us therefore provide for our future generation a legacy that has the power to not only deliver them from evil, but to also direct, sustain, and bring them into the Promised Land as well.

19 Communion

- Tonight as we take communion, let us remember that Jesus has given us a legacy as well.
- He has shown us the Father, so that we may know God's goodness and grace.
- And he has shown us that God is faithful and if we do His will, we will like Jesus himself, be raised from the dead as well.
- So then let us show our faith to the next generation, that they may see in our lives a living God who cares and able to bring us into His promises.