Name: Agyekum Paul

Moses

Purpose

Moses’ purpose was to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage and guide them toward the Promised Land. His mission was revealed when God appeared to him in the burning bush, commanding him to confront Pharaoh and demand the release of the Israelites (Exodus 3).

Challenges Moses Faced

1. Self-Doubt and Fear: Moses hesitated to accept God’s calling, feeling unqualified due to his speech impediment. He questioned, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11).
2. Opposition from Pharaoh: Despite witnessing God's plagues, Pharaoh repeatedly refused to let the Israelites go, making Moses' task extremely difficult (Exodus 7-12).
3. Leading a Stubborn Nation: The Israelites often complained and rebelled against Moses, even longing to return to Egypt. They lacked faith in God's provision (Exodus 16, Numbers 14).

Moses’ Disposition

Moses eventually surrendered to God’s call and demonstrated great faith and humility. He became an intercessor, standing between God and the people. His leadership foreshadowed Jesus, who would later become the ultimate Deliverer of humanity.

Mary the mother of Jesus

Purpose

Mary’s purpose was to bring Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, into existence. The angel Gabriel appeared to her, revealing that she was chosen to conceive the Messiah through the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26–38). This divine assignment placed Mary at the center of God's redemption plan.

Challenges Mary Faced

1. Societal Shame and Judgment: Mary was engaged to Joseph when she became pregnant. In her culture, such a situation was scandalous and could have led to public disgrace or even death by stoning.
2. Uncertainty About the Future: As a young virgin, Mary had to trust that God would work out the details of her miraculous pregnancy.
3. Watching Her Son Suffer: As a mother, Mary endured the unimaginable pain of watching Jesus suffer and die on the cross. Simeon had prophesied that a “sword would pierce her soul” (Luke 2:35), and she lived to see that prophecy fulfilled.

Mary’s Disposition

Mary responded with humility and total submission to God’s will, saying, “I am the Lord’s servant. May your word to me be fulfilled” (Luke 1:38). She displayed unwavering faith and obedience, even when she did not fully understand God's plan.

Paul the Apostle

Purpose

Paul’s divine purpose was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and build the early church. Before his conversion, Paul (then Saul) was a zealous Pharisee who persecuted Christians. However, on the road to Damascus, he encountered Jesus, who revealed his true calling (Acts 9:1–19).

Challenges Paul Faced

1. Paul’s history as a persecutor of Christians made it difficult for early believers to trust him. Many feared that his conversion was a ploy to harm them (Acts 9:26). Overcoming this stigma required patience and consistent demonstration of his transformation.
2. Paul faced relentless opposition throughout his ministry. He was beaten, imprisoned, stoned, and ultimately martyred for his faith (2 Corinthians 11:23–27). Despite this, he never wavered in his commitment to spreading the gospel.
3. Paul’s message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ rather than adherence to the law angered many Jews. They rejected him, plotted against him, and incited riots to stop his ministry (Acts 21:27–36).

Paul’s Disposition

When Jesus appeared to Paul, he immediately submitted, asking, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” (Acts 9:6). From that moment, Paul devoted his life to preaching the gospel, enduring hardships, and planting churches across the Roman Empire.

Peter the Apostle

Purpose: Peter’s purpose was to be a foundational leader in the early church and boldly preach the gospel. Jesus declared that he would build His church upon Peter’s confession of faith (Matthew 16:18).

Challenges Peter Faced

1. Initially struggled with fear and doubt, leading him to deny Jesus three times.
2. Faced persecution and imprisonment for preaching the gospel.
3. Had to overcome personal prejudices to accept that salvation was for both Jews and Gentiles.

Peter’s Disposition

Peter transformed from a fearful disciple into a bold preacher of the gospel. He repented after denying Jesus and became a fearless leader, saying, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Assignment Two

Find one scripture that depicts today's lesson, to wit that ministry is Work (that is, it requires we put in our all and our best.)

1 Corinthians 15:58   
  
Ministry is not a short sprint but a lifelong journey of dedication and endurance. Those who choose to serve God must understand that challenges will arise, discouragement, exhaustion, and even spiritual attacks. However, true ministry requires perseverance and steadfastness, the ability to remain firm and committed despite adversities.

In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul encourages us believers to stand firm and let nothing move us. This statement reveals the reality that in ministry, many forces will try to shake our faith and cause us to quit. Yet, Paul urges us to remain immovable and fully committed, reminding us that our work for God is never in vain.