

The Leadership of Moses

Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Introduction

What is your purpose? What is your great goal? Why did God put you on the planet? What difference are you going to make?

Today we'll talk about leadership and focus on numerous leadership qualities we can see in Moses from the Scriptures.

First please answer this question: What do you think are the most important qualities in a leader?

Moses was a great leader. Not because of his upbringing, or his education, or his physique, or his intelligence, or his charisma, or his oratorical skills.

You may think, "God could never use me. I'm not _____."

I remember hearing a teacher say, "Moses spent 40 years thinking he was a somebody, then 40 years learning he was a nobody, and then 40 years learning what God can do with a nobody."

1 Cor. 1:26-31 - ²⁶For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ²⁹that no man should boast before God. ³⁰But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Moses illustrates many necessary characteristics of a leader. I pray that you can be challenged and encouraged that these qualities can be in your life, knowing that God has a very important plan for you to make a difference.

Passion

Ex. 2:11-12 - ¹¹Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. ¹²So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

Delegation (and Humility)

Ex. 18:13-26 - ¹³And it came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. ¹⁴Now when Moses'

father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?" ¹⁵And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and make known the statutes of God and His laws." ¹⁷And Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. ¹⁸You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. ¹⁹Now listen to me: I shall give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, ²⁰then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk, and the work they are to do. ²¹Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. ²²And let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace." ²⁴So Moses listened to his father-in-law, and did all that he had said. ²⁵And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. ²⁶And they judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge.

Patient with the People

Ex. 14:10-12 - ¹⁰And as Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²"Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

Num. 14:1-4 - ⁴Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ²And all the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³"And why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt."

Love for the People

Num. 14:12-20 - ¹²"I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they." ¹³But Moses said to the LORD,

“Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Thy strength Thou didst bring up this people from their midst,¹⁴ and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that Thou, O LORD, art in the midst of this people, for Thou, O LORD, art seen eye to eye, while Thy cloud stands over them; and Thou dost go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.¹⁵ Now if Thou dost slay this people as one man, then the nations who have heard of Thy fame will say,¹⁶ ‘Because the LORD could not bring this people into the land which He promised them by oath, therefore He slaughtered them in the wilderness.’¹⁷ But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as Thou hast declared,¹⁸ ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.’¹⁹ Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Thy lovingkindness, just as Thou also hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”²⁰ So the LORD said, “I have pardoned them according to your word; ...”

Ex. 32:10-14 - ¹⁰“Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.”¹¹ Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why doth Thine anger burn against Thy people whom Thou hast brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?¹² Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, ‘With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Thy burning anger and change Thy mind about doing harm to Thy people.¹³ ‘Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Thy servants to whom Thou didst swear by Thyself, and didst say to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”¹⁴ So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Ex. 32:30-32 - ³²And it came about on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the LORD, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”³¹ Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, “Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves.³² But now, if Thou wilt, forgive their sin--and if not, please blot me out from Thy book which Thou hast written!”

Vision

Acts 7:24-25 - ²⁴“And when he saw one of them being treated unjustly, he defended him and took vengeance for the oppressed by striking down the Egyptian.²⁵ And he supposed that his brethren understood that God was granting them deliverance through him; but they did not understand.”

Ex. 3:7-10 - ⁷And the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings.⁸ So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians,

and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.¹⁰ Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Fellowship with God

Deut. 33:1 Now this is the blessing with which **Moses the man of God** blessed the sons of Israel before his death.

Ex. 33:11 Thus **the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.** When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

Ex. 14:1-4 - ¹Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea.³ For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, ‘They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’⁴ Thus I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.

Courage

Ex. 14:13-14 - ¹³But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever.¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent.”

Develop Leaders to Replace Them

Conclusion

What will be said of you when you’re gone? Will you have made a mark? Will you have made a difference?

Andy Andrews, “If you are here, you haven’t finished what you were put here to do. The greatest part of your life, your purpose, is yet to be lived.” (*The Seven Decisions*)

“Everything rises and falls on leadership.” – John Maxwell

Whenever there is a movement of God, there are leaders that get the vision and lead the way.

Will you make a difference?