**Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses**

**Lesson #1, Preparation of Mind: Education Is Important**

**Text: Exodus 2:1-10**

With regard to *education,* Moses’ preparation for leadership was in three stages: ***primary, secondary,***and ***post-graduate.***All three levels were vital to his preparation for leading God’s people.

**Moses’ *Primary Education*** came from his parents, *Aram* and *Jochebed,* 2:1; 6:20 (who also bore his older siblings, *Miriam* and *Aaron,* cf. 2:4ff; 7:7). He was only with both parents for the first three months of his life, but obviously continued to be greatly influenced by his mother who *nurtured* him for Pharaoh’s daughter, 2:6-10. Evidence of his *primary education* is derived from 2:11-13. He had been taught of his true heritage- otherwise, how would he have known or been concerned with *“his brethren,”* let alone understood the *companionship* that should have existed between them? Additionally, his *primary education* evidently also included: 1) compassion for the oppressed, v.11; Acts 7:24; cf. Luke 10:30,33; 2) training in *“discerning good and evil,”* v.12;cf. Heb.5:14; and, 3) a willingness to *get involved,* vv.12-13; Acts 7:24,26-27, even to his own danger and detriment, v.15 (more on these later).

**Moses’ *Secondary Education***came from and in the house of Pharaoh. There he was *“educated in all the learning of the Egyptians”* (which was apparently legendary even in ancient times, cf. 1Kings 4:30),and was *“a man of power in words and deeds,”* Acts 7:22.

**Moses’ *Post-Graduate Education*** came from two sources we might easily overlook, but God used to further prepare him for leadership:

* **Sheep**- not *spiritual* sheep, *real* sheep. Think about it. His *primary* and *secondary* education was complete by the time he was about forty, Acts 7:23. His *brethren* were already sorely oppressed, but God apparently didn’t yet deem his education complete or sufficient for him to deliver and lead the people out of bondage. So, Moses got some *post-grad* education of a practical nature from tending sheep in Midian, vv.15-23a. Obviously there is much to be learned about “leadership” from being a *shepherd,* cf. Psalm 23; John 10:1-18!
* **Family**- not *brethren* in a *national* or *spiritual* sense, *real* “wife and kids” family. Again, if Moses’ *primary* and *secondary* education had adequately prepared him for leadership, why did God wait another forty years to deliver Israel? They were already *sorely oppressed,* and Moses evidently saw himself as their *deliverer,* Acts 7:25. Could it be that God’s chosen man still needed some life-lessons on “leadership” that only being the *head of a family* could deliver, cf. 1Tim.3:4-5?

**Applications**

Consider the roles these three stages of *education* playin preparing us to be “leaders” of God’s people today:

**The *Primary Education* from our parents** teaches us the foundations of life- not only *who we are,* but *who, what,* and *how God expects us to be,* 2Tim.3:14-17.

**The *Secondary Education* from whatever “schooling” we can get** teaches us *“the writing and language”* (cf. Dan.1:4) and *ways* of people, that we may effectively communicate and interact with them. Effective communication is vital to leadership.

**The *Post-Grad Education* from work and family** teach us responsibility, accountability, and enables us learn general “leadership” in *physical* and *practical* settings that prepare us for *spiritual* and *special* applications for the people of God, Acts 6:3; Titus 1:6-9; Acts 18:3; 20:33-35.

**Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses**

**Lesson #1, Preparation of Mind: Education Is Important**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What was the source of Moses’ *primary education?*
2. What leadership lessons did he learn from his *primary education?*
3. Can one become an effective leader of God’s people today without this source of *primary education?* If not, why not? If so, how?
4. What was the source of Moses’ *secondary education?*
5. How did Moses’ *secondary education* benefit him in leadership?
6. Can one become an effective leader of God’s people today without the benefit of *secondary education?* If not, why not? If so, how?
7. What was the source of Moses’ *post-graduate education?*
8. What leadership lessons did he learn from his *post-graduate education?*
9. Can one become an effective leader of God’s people today without the benefit of *post-graduate education?*  If not, why not? If so, how?