

## Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses

### **Lesson #5, Preparation of Power and Purpose: Allied *With* God for *His* Purposes**

#### **Text: Ex.3:1-22**

Every good *leader* (or *would be* leader) knows his/her *strengths*, and *weaknesses*. In spiritual leadership, our *weaknesses* are decidedly “human” (cf. 4:10) while our *strengths* are definitely “divine.” But the more we commit ourselves to God’s **purpose(s)**, and the more we rely on His **power**, rather than our own, the better leaders we can and will become, cf. 1Pet.4:11; 2Tim.1:9; Rom.8:28; cp. Luke 7:30.

#### **Good leadership begins with the right *attitude*, 3:1-15**

- **Answer the call, v.4.** After Moses had come near to the *bush that burned but was not consumed*, and God “called to him from the midst of the bush,” Moses replied “*Here I am.*” Abraham repeatedly answered God’s call similarly, cf. Gen. 22:1,7,11. Perhaps Moses- having known of his appointed purpose for many years (cf. Acts 7:25), has been patiently *waiting* for this *call* while his preparations were finalized. At any rate, he answered the *call of God* to be a *leader*- will you?
- **Recognize/revere the holiness of God’s presence and purpose, vv.5-10,12.** The *ground* on which Moses stood was *Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God*, v.1. He later received *the Law* here (aka, *Sinai*), cf. v.12; 19:2-3. What made the mountain *holy* was not geography, but the declared *presence* of God, cp. Josh.5:13-15. Here God met with Moses, and affirmed His *purposes* both to and for him. Moses revered being in the *presence* of God, as well as hearing His *instructions*, v.6b. Spiritual leadership requires this kind of reverence, respect, and attention!
- **Stay humble, v.11.** God pronounces Moses the *most humble man on earth*, Num.12:3. It’s probably impossible to overestimate the importance of *humility* (from a Heb. word meaning *poor, afflicted, meek*). From a purely human perspective, he could have easily become vain, conceited, puffed up, and arrogant. In addition to the evidence from v.11, Moses also later demonstrates the veracity of God’s assessment in Num.11:26-30. If we would *lead*, we must be *humble*, Phil.2:1-18.
- **Be resolved/committed, v.13a.** Moses was *reverent* (v.5), *fearful* (v.6b), and *humble* (v.11), but being assured of God’s *presence with him* (v.12), he became a *resolved* and *committed* leader! But we can’t get the “cart before the horse”! *Resolved commitment* to spiritual leadership stems not from *within*, but from *without*- from trusting God’s *grace* and *power*, 2Cor.12:2-10. And if Moses had any remaining doubts, he is about to be shown exactly *Whom* he is to represent, cf. vv.13b-15; 4:1-9!
- **Good leadership works within the *plan* and *purpose* of God, 3:16-22**
  1. **Work through proper channels, vv.16a,18a.** Moses has been away from Egypt for 40 years. He is sent *first* to extant “*elders of Israel.*” He didn’t just show up one day and announce, “I’m God’s appointed leader- I’m in charge.” Whatever your role, work *with* not *against* existing leaders, cf. Mark 9:38-40. If they’re what they should be, they’ll gladly accept the help, 1Thess.5:12-22.
  2. **Understand and relay God’s *plan* and *purpose*, vv.16b-17.** Moses is instructed to relay *what* God is going to do through him and *why*. When working through *proper channels* (extant leaders), know what God wants and how you can help *going in*.
  3. **Try the easy way first, vv.18- 22.** It may *not work*, v.19, but it just *might*- besides, it’s the *right place* to start, cf. Matt.18:15ff.

We can learn a lot about *leadership* from Moses, and God’s interaction with him!

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#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. From the introduction to this lesson, what makes us *weak* or *strong* as leaders?
2. How did Moses respond to God *calling* him from the *burning bush*? Who else similarly responded to a *call from God*? How does God *call us* today?
3. What made Mt. Horeb / Mt. Sinai *holy*? What are the implications of this for *spiritual leaders* today?
4. Was Moses chosen to be God's appointed leader *because of* his humility (cf. Num.12:3), or, did he *become* humble because God chose and appointed him as leader? Please explain your answer.
5. Why is *humility* such an important trait for leaders?
6. Despite Moses' *fear* (v.6b), what gave him the *confident resolve* to go to Egypt and do what God commanded?
7. What further assurances (*signs*) did God provide Moses, and subsequently, Israel? (see 4:1-9)
8. Why did God send Moses to "*the elders of Israel*" first? Why/how is this important for us today?
9. Given v.19, why did God send Moses to Pharaoh with the message of v.18?