

Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses
Lesson #2, Preparation of Heart: Compassion for Those to be Led

Text: Exodus 2:11-13

A good leader needs to be *mentally* prepared for leadership. He needs *moral* and *spiritual* education that is typically derived from his parents (or other sources, including self), *secular* education to further his abilities to communicate effectively, and *practical* education in the real-world experiences of work or trade. But even these, when fully accomplished, do not provide all the *inward* preparation needed for a simple reason. The good leader's judgment isn't comprised of just facts, figures, and experiences- it regards people, and that requires a *heart of compassion*.

If Moses' education, or anyone else's for that matter, had been just of the *mind*, he would have never become the tremendous leader that he obviously was. His *heart* also had to be well prepared for the job. Any effective leader must have a ***heart of compassion for those to be led***. Otherwise, judgment, decisions, and efforts become overly pragmatic, legislative, and perhaps even tyrannical.

Note the characteristics provided by our text regarding the *heart/emotional* component of Moses' preparation for leadership:

1. **Maturity, v.11a.** Both this verse and Heb.11:24 emphasize that Moses had "*grown up,*" which wasn't just *physical* maturity. *Emotional* maturity is vital to good leadership. Emotional immaturity leads to extreme vacillation (mood swings due to fickle emotions), rash decisions (when emotions are not tempered with sound judgment), and even angry outbursts (lack of emotional self-control). But *emotional maturity* provides the leader with the ability to stay calm under pressure, and make sensible decisions that are *tempered* with proper emotions rather than dictated by improper and immature ones, cf. 1Tim.3:2-6.
2. **Compassion for Welfare, v.11b.** Moses was moved to action by his *heart of compassion* for the welfare of his brethren, as was God, 3:7-9. Seeing their *oppression* (1:11) did not just evoke sympathy (feeling sorry *for* another), but empathy (being sorry *with* another; the ability to place oneself in another's position) from Moses. This *compassion for the welfare of others* is what leads, or even pushes, one to leadership, 3:10-13a. An *immature heart* wants the "position" of leadership for self, cf. 1Tim.1:7. A *mature heart* desires the benefits of leadership for those lacking it, Mark 6:34 and Acts 7:25.
3. **Sense of Right and Wrong, v.11c.** The ability to "*discern good and evil*" is not just a matter of *knowledge in the mind*, but also requires the "*training of the senses*" to a point of *maturity*, Heb.5:14. What our *minds* sometimes lack in full understanding, the *mature heart* discerns immediately. Mature Moses knew instinctively that what he saw was just not right, cf. Acts 7:24a. Good leadership not only has *compassion for the welfare* of others, it also is concerned with what is *just* and *right*, cf. Micah 6:8 and 2Cor.8:21.
4. **Willingness to Get Involved, v.12.** Finally, being *mature of heart and mind* enough to have *compassion for the welfare of others* and *understand right and wrong* is of no real benefit to the *oppressed/distressed* (*i.e.* those *lacking leadership*) unless one is *willing to get involved*. The *priest* and the *Levite* both *saw* and surely understood the needs of *half-dead man* on the road to Jericho, but only the *good Samaritan* had a *heart of mercy* that made him willing to take the lead and get involved, cf. Luke 10:30-37. Moses was also such a man, and so must we be in order to become good, effective leaders.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Why must the *heart* be prepared for leadership (as separate from the *mind*)?

2. What happens when “leaders” don’t have the right kind of heart?

3. From Ex.2:11-13, please explain how Moses demonstrated each of the following aspects of leadership with a *prepared heart*:
 - a. Maturity-

 - b. Compassion for Welfare-

 - c. Sense of Right and Wrong-

 - d. Willingness to Get Involved-

4. Please explain how each of the following aspects of leadership is critical to *preparing our hearts* for leadership: (whether at *home, work, socially, or church*; and include related passages as needed)
 - a. Maturity-

 - b. Compassion for Welfare-

 - c. Sense of Right and Wrong-

 - d. Willingness to Get Involved-