

Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson #3, Preparation of Life: Commitment and Hard Choices are Required

Text: Heb.11:24-27

Having already examined both *physical* and *emotional* “maturity” previously, what remains? **Spiritual** maturity is also required for leadership. Just because one is *physically* and *emotionally* mature, doesn’t mean that they are fully prepared to lead others *spiritually*. Heb.11:24-27 informs us regarding this aspect of Moses’ preparation for leadership.

- **Faith + Maturity = Ready to Serve, v.24a.** The verse begins with “*By faith...*” *Spiritual* maturity is the natural result of a growing faith. But *mature faith* is not an “end” of itself. It has a purpose- not only for the possessor, but also for others. The *spiritual* life cycle corresponds to the *physical* one: *seed* is implanted; *gestation* occurs; *birth* takes place; then, *growth* inevitably (sans disease/death) results in *maturity*. But here’s the point: *maturity* enables *reproduction!* Consider that *fruitfulness* is the product of *true knowledge, growth, and maturity* in 2Pet.1:5-8. Though this *fruitfulness* surely involves *personal security*, 2Pet.2:10-11, **spiritual reproduction** also surely comes from *spiritually maturity*, cf. 1Pet.2:9! Relative to leadership, this means *guiding* others in and with the Word to either be *born again* or to be *returned to faithful obedience*. Moses, when his *faith* had *matured*, was ready to lead others to Canaan, but also to *faithfulness to God!* But spiritual leadership also involves **commitment** and some **hard choices...**
- **Refused Royalty, v.24b.** Think carefully about exactly what Moses was *giving up*: the *wealth, power,* and (possibly, as the *son of Pharaoh’s daughter*) the *future throne* of what was the richest and most dominant nation in the world at the time! Being a true leader is not about *wealth* (1Tim.6:5), *power* (John 11:47-48), or *position* (Matt.23:2-7). **It’s about people.** Moses understood that, cf. Acts 7:25, and so must anyone who aspires to leadership, cf. John 10:10!
- **Chose Ill-Treatment with God’s People, v.25.** Moses wasn’t just *giving up* a position of wealth and power with Egypt. He was choosing its opposite of *slavery, oppression,* and *hardship*. He was choosing an *alliance* with God and His people regardless of the cost or hardships involved, cf. Luke 14:25-35; Heb.11:32 – 12:3. To be prepared for leadership, we must be *spiritually mature* enough to set aside *fleshly* and *temporary* inducements for *spiritual* and *eternal* rewards.
- **Consider the Reproach of Christ Greater Riches, v.26.** What an amazing statement... and perspective! It’s all about what we “value” (consider precious). Moses *esteemed* whatever *reproaches* (*oneidismos*- insult; disgrace, abuse; cf. 10:33 and Mark 15:32) were required to be *greater riches* than the *wealth/treasures of Egypt*. How so? His eyes were “*clear*” (or *single*, KJV) which enable him to *value* the *spiritual* over the *temporal*, Matt.6:19-23; Jas.4:8. That’s not an easy choice to make, but it is one that is essential to *spiritual maturity* and leadership, cf. Rom.6:16-18.
- **Willing to Leave Home, v.27.** Moses’ choices removed him from “home” in the palace and put him in the pastures of Midian for forty years, and then the Wilderness of Par for another forty years! It’s not that we must necessarily leave our country to be leaders. We must, however, be willing to leave “the comforts of home” to become such. Our “homes” are places of *comfort, security,* and *self-indulgence*; but leadership requires considerable *discomfort, vulnerability,* and *selflessness*, cf. Luke 9:57-62. How was Moses, and all other true leaders for that matter, able to make this choice? Note the rest of v.27, “*not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.*” Only those *spiritually mature* by and through faith are able to “see” Him who is “unseen” and make such admittedly difficult choices.

As manifested in our previous lessons, becoming a leader is about priorities and the choices that emanate from them.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Why are *physical* and *emotional* maturity, of themselves, insufficient for leadership in the kingdom of God?
2. What is the source of *spiritual maturity*? (Or, from what does it emanate?)
3. What two things result from *spiritual maturity* according to 2Pet.1:5-11?
4. Moses *refused royalty* (in Egypt), Heb.11:24a. Though none of us are likely to have the same choice, what are some *comparable* choices that we must be willing to make to become effective leaders in the kingdom today?
5. Moses chose *ill-treatment with the people of God*, Heb.11:25. How, or in what ways, must kingdom leaders today make similar choices?
6. From Heb.11:26 (and other related passages), what is the key to “*considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures*”?
7. In Heb.11:27, Moses left his home in Egypt. What aspects of “home” must we be willing to leave in order to become effective leaders for God?