

Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses
Lesson #4, Preparation of Relations: From, In, and Through Family

Text: Ex.2:16-22; 4:24-30

In Lessons 1-3, we considered the largely *internal* preparations for leadership of *Mind, Heart, and Life*. Now in these next three studies, let's think about the *external* ones. In this lesson, specifically, the preparations that are derived from *family* are our focus. Though still partly an *internal* training, it comes from an *outside* source: *in, through, and with* one's family.

First, let's look at **Ex.2:16-22**.

- **Standing up is not just a matter of posture, vv.16-17a.** Though *standing up* to injustice was something surely learned from his *natural* family (cf. vv.1-11a), and Moses had previously demonstrated it (cf. vv.11b-12), his previous experiences (cf. vv.13-15) did not deter him from "sticking to his guns" in this new, foreign land. He was still willing to *stand up* to *injustice* and *for* what was *right*. Being a leader always puts one on the "front line" against evil and for justice. Becoming a *spiritual* leader in and for God's kingdom and cause is certainly no exception, 2Cor.8:21. Such a disposition surely comes from our heavenly Father, 2Thess.1:6.
- **Being helpful is essential, v.17b.** Perhaps nothing endears one to a *potential* or *new* family quite like simply being *helpful*. It certainly got Moses' "foot in the door" with Jethro (having *seven daughters* probably didn't hurt, either)! Stop, and think about it: Moses has *fled for his life* from Pharaoh, and is now in a foreign land. Surely "laying low" and "not causing trouble" by interjecting himself into yet another conflict (like vv.11-15) would have been a seemingly "wise" course to pursue. But, those preparing for leadership can't really help simply being *helpful*. If it is not innate, then they have learned and adopted the habit, cf. Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27.
- **Have the sense to recognize and "stay put" in a good situation, v.21a.** Though Stephen indicates that Moses knew his life's purpose of *delivering Israel* while he was still in Egypt (cf. Acts 7:25), he was also smart enough to at least *accept*, if not *recognize*, God's providential care in Midian! Many who aspire to *spiritual leadership* seem to be constantly "on the move" looking for additional opportunities. But there is something to be said for "staying put" where God *puts* you, vv.21a-22. Moses' *preparation* wasn't yet complete, and apparently, he was willing to "*wait on the Lord*" until it was. Surely there are lessons for us in these things, Acts 19:10.

Now, let's also briefly consider **Ex.4:24-30**. (Note that Moses has now *seen the burning bush*, been *instructed of God*, has *returned to Jethro's house*, and now has *started out for Egypt* with his family, 3:1 – 4:23; we'll consider these matters in later lessons.)

- **Even leaders fail, and need family to correct them, v.25.** With all that Moses had going, he failed to perform a duty as God had instructed. Because of this, "*the Lord met him and sought to put him to death,*" v.24. Indeed, the Lord could have raised up another leader to provide "*relief and deliverance... for the Jews from another place*" (cp. Esther 4:14), but thankfully, Moses' wife, Zipporah, saved him. Even great (or potentially great) leaders need a good spouse to help, cf. Eph.5:25-27; 1Pet.3:1-2. It is also worthy of note that, sadly, we can become so intent on intent on *helping* or *leading* others that we neglect our own families, cf. 1Sam.3:13; 1Tim.3:4-5.

So, potential *leaders*: Stand up for truth and righteousness; Be helpful (always); Have the good sense to stay where God puts you; and, Have the kind of spouse who can and will save you when you fail!

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Discussion Questions:

1. From this and past lessons, identify 3 times Moses *stood up* to injustice and for what was right.

2. From what 2 sources did Moses learn to *stand up* for right?

3. List some ways/areas in which we, as *spiritual leaders*, must be willing to *stand up* to wrong and for right.

4. Why might it have been “unwise” for Moses to *help* the daughters of Jethro?

5. How did *helping others* in turn *help Moses*?

6. As *spiritual leaders*, how does *helping others* also *help us*?

7. In our last lesson, we identified being willing to *leave home* (at least its *comforts*). In this lesson, the value of *staying put where God puts you* was recognized. How do we know which one is the “right thing” to do as leaders?

8. What was God prepared to do to Moses for his failure to obey?

9. What does the answer to the previous question imply regarding us as *spiritual leaders* today? (multiple answers apply)