

MOSES & LEADERSHIP

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Provides a paradigm of Leadership.

Leader out of Exodus (Bondage) into Canaan (Promised land) (Without getting there)

Story of Journey, Scarcity of Resource, Conflict and many other challenges of Leadership.

Examine phases of Moses' life.

PREPARATION (Compare, contrast and evaluate)

- Baby & Childhood – Spared death and placed in Pharaohs' palace
- Now Moses is an adult Ex.2:11-15a (Compare, contrast and evaluate)
- Then Moses in Midian
- Similarities:
 - Motivated by Justice – Impulsiveness
 - Use of strength
 - Defends the weak
 - Seen as an Egyptian
 - Intervenes as a foreigner
 - His action becomes known
 - Alien to Egyptians, Hebrew, Midians
- Contrasts:
 - Rejection & Acceptance
 - No-one dies in the second event
 - The first seems to condemn his action
 - Moses matures moves from killing to defending
 - Secret vs Public Act
 - Lands up in a rut
- Learnings:
 - Identifies and Embodies Israel
 - Identifies with injustice
 - Experiences being an enemy of the state
 - Goes into Wilderness & meets God at Horeb/Sinai
 - vs 22 – Alien

Formation of Leadership

- Being a boundary crosser – Identifying with but never being at home. It is uncomfortable, but it allows him to do what others cannot.
- Theme of being an Alien – A Sojourner – is a very important theme in the OT and part of Leadership.
- Moses represents God in these events
 - He sees Israel's suffering – so does God (ra-ah)
 - strikes the Egyptians – God strikes with plagues (na-ah)
 - He saves / delivers the daughters
- His actions anticipate issues faced in Wilderness
 - He must mediate between Hebrews – c.f. Ex.18
 - The Israelites refusal to accept Moses guidance

EXODUS 3

- Shepherd – a common OT image of a Leader. We're being given a hint of what lies ahead for Moses.
- Horeb – Sinai
- Fire – inexhaustible power
- Moses, Moses (very unusual for God to speak twice) Only other Abraham x2 with Isaac
- Shoes off – reverence, but also what you do when you come home – the Alien has found a way home.
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – Continuity with past
- Moses hides face contrast to seeing God's back = GROWTH
- God identifies with the cry of oppressed to move God to action.
- Knows (yadah) their sufferings
- God resolves

THEREFORE

- Moses has found
 - a home
 - where he can find power
 - a direction

Commission and Objections

Sent to Pharaoh to bring Israelites out

Objections (5)

- Who am I (vs.11) God says “I am with you”
 - Our question: “Is God with me”.
 - God gives him an interim sign – worship at Horeb. In the midst of

discouragement we get interim markers of hope.

- What is God's name (13) Who sent you?
- Yahweh – best translated “I will be who I will be”. Also continuity with the past. Not limited by the past. - I will be with You.
- What if they doubt that You have called me? (4)
 - Two signs – rod to snake, leprous hand
 - Small signs of God's power.
 - In leadership we need to lift up and celebrate small signs of Gods power.
- Lack of Eloquence (4:10) (Heavy of tongue). Not about eloquence – He made us – He can give us speech. The promise is that words will be given to us.
- Send someone else (4:13) Here there is no reason and there is a sense of rebellion. God's answer indicates His understanding of Moses' concern: Loneliness and fear of bearing the burden alone. So God sends Moses some help through Aaron and later Miriam. This becomes an issue later: Numbers 11&12 contrasts delegated and sole leadership.

Reflections

- Objections are short and God's responses are long. God takes him very seriously. It's a lively interaction and we have a hearing in God.
- Typical call motif
 - A sense of unworthiness
 - We don't seek the calling – the calling seeks us
- The Leader and Prayer
 - God listens
 - God alters His plans in responses to Moses' dialogue. This pre-shadows the intercession of Moses in Ex.32 – gold calf.
- Deuteronomy
 - The stories of the past
 - The commands of the present
 - The hope of the future

Exodus 16

Moses and the Manna Story

Notice how God once again answers their complaints (1-5). Moses experiences their complaints negatively. There are a series of complaints in Exodus

- food	God responds	BUT	God responds	- food
- water	+ in Exodus	BUT	More – in Numbers	- water

We need food (legitimate: One needs food in wilderness)	VS	We're tired of Manna (Illegitimate: Don't need leeks and garlic in wilderness)
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There is a sense in which Moses reacts immaturely to the first set of complaints and in Numbers 11 he pouts and asks to be put to death.

Conclusion of Chapter

Jar of Manna kept: What does it mean?

- Trust and Obey
- Enough is enough
- Sabbath – A regular interruption to the routine of work.
- Manna vs being in the land – we are still dependent
- Zachar - “Remembrance”
- Taste and see that the Lord is good.