"MOSES: A Leader for God"

(Selected Scriptures from Exodus - Deuteronomy)

4/28/10



Introduction:

Four major Lessons on Leadership from the life of Moses:

I. The _____ of Moses
(The Making of a Great Leader)

II. The _____ of Moses
(The Marks of a Great Leader)

III. The _____ of Moses
(The Mistake of a Great Leader)

IV. The _____ of Moses
(The Memory of a Great Leader)

I. The PREPARATION of Moses (The Making of a Great Leader)

(Exodus 1-4; Acts 7:20-34; Heb. 11:23-27)

How did God prepare Moses to be the greatest human leader to ever live?

A. God guided Moses providentially (God's providence in Egypt - Exod. 2:1-10)



--From birth to 40 years old

Three ways God providentially prepared Moses in Egypt - Moses providentially received:

1._____ in Egypt (Ex. 1:16-2:10)

2._____ in Egypt (Acts 7:20-22)

3._____ in Egypt (Acts 7:23-28; Heb. 11:24-27)

B. **God <u>equipped</u> Moses <u>provisionally</u>**
(God's <u>provision</u> in the <u>desert</u> - Exod. 2:11-25)

--From 40 to 80 years old



1. God provided a _____ (40 years) for Moses' maturity (Ex. 2:11-15, 23)

2. God provided a _____ (wife & 2 children) for Moses' posterity (Ex. 2:16-22)

3. God provided a _____ (shepherding) for Moses' future ministry (Ex. 2:17; 3:1)

C. **God <u>called</u> Moses <u>personally</u>**
(God's <u>presence</u> at the <u>burning bush</u> - Exod. 3 - 4)

--80 years old



1. God prepared Moses by revealing His (God's) __ (Ex. 3:1-10)

2. God prepared Moses by removing his (Moses') __ (3:11-4:17)

Excuse # 1 –

Excuse # 2 –

Excuse # 3 –

"MOSES: A Leader for God"

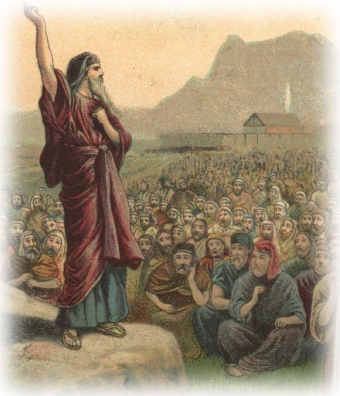
Selected Scriptures
Part 2

II. The CHARACTER of Moses (The Marks of a Great Leader)

(Heb. 11:24-27; Exod. 18, 32-33; Num. 11-12, 16)

What qualities did God give Moses to make him the greatest human leader to ever live?

A. _____
(The Vision of a leader - Heb. 11:24-27; Exod. 14:13-14)



1. Moses had faith to . . .
   _____ from the _____ (Heb. 11:24)

2. Moses had faith to . . .
   _____ the _____ (Heb. 11:25)

3. Moses had faith to . . .
   _____ a _____ (Heb. 11:26)

4. Moses had faith to . . .
   _____ the _____ (Heb. 11:27; Exod. 14:13-14)

B. _____
(The direction of a leader - Exod. 18; 33:25-34:11)

1. Moses had wisdom to:
   _____ from others (Exod. 18:14-24)

2. Moses had wisdom to:
   _____ responsibility (Exod. 18:25-26)

3. Moses had wisdom to:
   _____ (Exod. 33:12-34:11)

C. _____

(The <u>motivation</u> of a leader - Exod. 32:11-35)



Love is not mere sentiment, but <u>concern</u> put into <u>action</u>)

1. Moses was concerned about God's _____ (Exod. 32:11-14)
   (He shared God's attitude toward His _____)

2. Moses was concerned for God's _____ (Exod. 32:15-30)
   (He shared God's attitude of _____)

3. Moses was concerned for God's _____ (Exod. 32:31-35)
   (He shared God's attitude of _____)

D. _____

(The <u>mind-set</u> of a leader - Num. 11-12, 16 *12:3)

1. Moses was humble enough
   to see his own _____ (11:14-17 *v. 14)

2. Moses was humble enough
   to see that God could use _____ [not just himself] (11:25-29 *v. 29)

3. Moses was humble enough
   to let God take care of his _____ (Num. 12 & 16)

   a. Moses allowed God to _____ him before Aaron and Miriam (Num. 12)

   b. Moses allowed God to _____ him before the rebellion of Korah (Num. 16)

"MOSES: A Leader for God"

Selected Scriptures in Numbers
Part 3



III. The TRANSGRESSION of Moses (The Mistake of a Great Leader)

(Numbers 20:1-13)

If the greatest human leader who ever lived "fell into sin," we need to take heed, lest we fall.

A. The Heated That Provoked Moses to Sin (v. 1-5)

What hot pressures did Moses face?

1. A long time in the _____ (v. 1)
2. His sister's _____ (v. 1)
3. Absence of _____ (v. 2)
4. Collective _____ (v. 2)
5. Verbal strife (v. 3)
   a. Complaint (v. 3b)
   b. Interrogation (v. 4)
   c. Unjust blame (v. 5)

B. The Haughty _____ That Produced Moses' Sin (v. 7-11)

Note: The basis for Moses' act of sin was a moment of unbelief (mistrust) - v. 12)

1. Sinful attitudes (v. 10)
   a. _____ - *"Hear now"*
   b. _____ - *"Ye rebels"*

c. _____(self-exaltation) - *"Must we fetch you water?"*

2. Sinful action (v. 11)

a. The sin of _____ (Moses did not do what he was told to do)

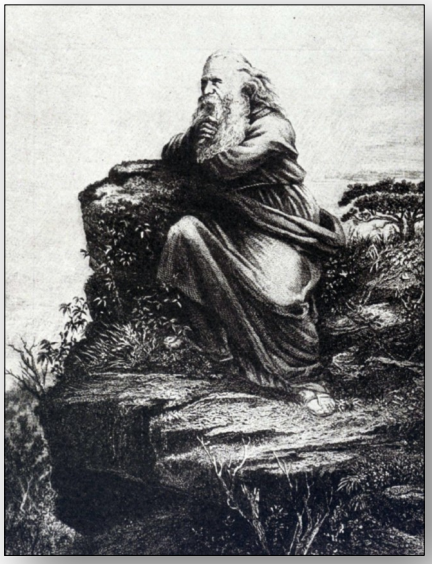
b. The sin of _____(Moses did what he was not told to do)

C. The High _____ That Was Paid for Moses' Sin (v. 12)

Two-fold price:

1. A failure of _____ (v. 12)

2. A forfeit of _____ (v. 12)



a. Moses is _____(Deut. 32:49-52)
(The severity of a leader who sins)

b. Moses is _____(Deut. 3:23-27)
(The sorrow of a leader who sins)

c. Moses is _____(Num. 27:16-23)
(The substitute of a leader who sins)

"MOSES: A Leader for God"

(Selected Scriptures from Exodus - Deuteronomy)

INTRODUCTION:

Illus: of the crying need for leadership in America (1990 Time Magazine cover with George Washington on the face of a $1.00 bill weeping - Title: "Where are the Leaders"). All aspects of society need leadership today - government, church, and home.

A leader is basically: someone who is being followed.

Every one of us is being followed by someone. Someone is following your example, whether good or bad; someone is going to follow suit; someone is right now walking in your steps.

Therefore, these lessons on leadership apply to anyone.

These lessons are needed by the:

1) Corporate executive
2) Business manager
3) All husbands and fathers
4) All mothers
5) All pastors, evangelists (missionaries), Bible professors
6) All deacons
7) Every "head" of any council, committee, or class

. . . Everyone from the President of the USA to a S.S. class teacher, needs these principles.

Four major Lessons on Leadership from the life of Moses:

I. The PREPARATION of Moses
(The Making of a Great Leader)

II. The CHARACTER of Moses
(The Marks of a Great Leader)

III. The TRANSGRESSION of Moses
(The Mistake of a Great Leader)

IV. The LEGACY of Moses
(The Memory of a Great Leader)

I. The PREPARATION of Moses

(The Making of a Great Leader)

(Exodus 1-4; Acts 7:20-34; Heb. 11:23-27)

How did God prepare Moses to be the greatest human leader to ever live?

A. God guided Moses providentially
(God's providence in Egypt - Exod. 2:1-10)

--From birth to 40 years old

Three ways God providentially prepared Moses in Egypt - Moses providentially received:

1. Protection in Egypt (Ex. 1:16-2:10)

a. God didn't allow Moses to be killed by the Egyptian mid-wives (1:16-21)

b. God didn't allow Moses to be drowned in the Nile River (1:22-2:5)

c. God used Pharaoh's daughter to provide refuge for

Moses (2:6-10)

2. Education in Egypt (Acts 7:20-22)

3. Conviction in Egypt (Ex. 2:11-12; Acts 7:23-28; Heb. 11:24-27)

   a. A conviction to stand up for the people of God (Acts 7:23-28; Heb. 11:24-25a)

   b. A conviction to stand against the worldliness in Egypt (Heb. 11:25b-27)

B. God equipped Moses provisionally
(God's provision in the desert - Exod. 2:11-25)

--From 40 to 80 years old

1. God provided a time (40 years) for Moses' maturity (Ex. 2:11-15, 23)

   God allowed time to pass before Israel's exodus for 3 reasons:

   a. To fulfill His Word (over 400 years of bondage - Gen. 15:13; Ex. 12:40; Ga. 3:17)

   b. To prepare His people Israel (Ex. 2:23-25)

   c. To mature his man Moses

   Paul was saved in 32 A.D. but did not go on his first missionary journey until 47 A.D. (15 years later!).

   God uses those times to mold and prepare his man for leadership.

Rushing into pastoral leadership is a violation of Scripture (I Tim. 3:6).

2. God provided a family (wife & 2 children) for Moses' posterity (Ex. 2:16-22)

3. God provided a work (shepherding) for Moses' future ministry (Ex. 2:17; 3:1)

C. God called Moses personally
(God's presence at the burning bush - Exod. 3 - 4)

--80 years old

1. God prepared Moses by revealing His (God's) holiness (Ex. 3:1-10)

2. God prepared Moses by removing his (Moses') excuses (3:11-4:17)

3. Excuses of Moses:

a. Excuse #1 - "Who am I?" (v. 11)

God's answer - "I will be with thee" (v. 12) - God's presence

b. Excuse #2 - "Who are You?" (v. 13)

God's answer - "I AM" (v. 14-15) - God's person

c. Excuse #3 - "What can I do?"

1) "They will not believe me" (4:1)

God's answer - "They will believe the sign" (v. 2-9) - God's power

2) "I am not eloquent" (4:10)

God's answer - "Who hath made man's mouth" (4:11) - God's provision

God's answer to:
Inadequacy is His Presence
Ignorance is His Person
Impotency is His power and provision

CONCLUSION:

Nothing that God places into our lives is by accident but rather it is by design.

EX: David - Shepherd . . . to become the king of Israel

Peter - Fishing trade . . . to become a great fisher of men

Luke - a doctor . . . to write down the intricacies of the Gospel that bears his name

Paul - education . . . to become a mighty teacher of the Gentiles

Timothy - Scripture knowledge . . . to become a wise preacher

In Romans 12:3-8, God teaches us to:

1. Use the gifts He has given us (v. 6-8a)

2. Use our gifts to the fullest (v. 8)

II. The CHARACTER of Moses

(The Marks of a Great Leader)

(Heb. 11:24-27; Exod. 18, 32-33; Num. 11-12, 16)

Biblical leadership does not come naturally; it comes supernaturally. God makes real leaders.

ILLUS: Hymn # 309 - "Channels Only"

God led Israel through Moses (Is. 63:11-12 - "Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he that put his holy Spirit within him? That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?")

A true leader is a channel through which God works. What kind of channel does God use?

What qualities did God give Moses to make him the greatest human leader to ever live?

A. FAITH
(The Vision of a leader - Heb. 11:24-27; Exod. 14:13-14)

1. Moses had faith to . . .
Step out from the security of the world (Heb. 11:24)

All of the fame, honor, wealth, prestige, etc., that came with being a son of Pharaoh's daughter, was rejected by Moses.

Note: Paul made a similar break from his former religion and worldly acclaim "by faith" (Phil. 3:4-10).

2. Moses had faith to . . .
Stand with the people of God (Heb. 11:25)

It takes faith to stand with those in the minority.

3. Moses had faith to . . .
   See a future reward (Heb. 11:26)

   Faith does not demand rewards in this life. Faith sees beyond this life, into the next.

4. Moses had faith to . . .
   Trust the invisible God (Heb. 11:27; Exod. 14:13-14)

   Faith knows that what God promises, He performs.

B. WISDOM
(The direction of a leader - Exod. 18; 33:25-34:11)

1. Moses had wisdom to:
   Take advice from others (Exod. 18:14-24)

   Moses takes advice from his aged father-in-law.

   --Many mistakenly do not seek family for advice today. But rather go to the "professionals" - the worldly psychologists.

   --Many foolishly avoid the wisdom to be acquired from the aged (cp. the bad advice given to Rehoboam - I Ki. 12:5-14).

   A man of wisdom:

   will listen (Prov. 1:5 - "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels")

   is open (Prov. 10:8 - "The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall")

   can be rebuked (Prov. 9:8 - "Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee")

   can be taught (Prov. 9:9-10 - "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is

understanding")
A wise man is not a know-it-all.

Those who think they "know it all" have no room for instruction; therefore, never learn and become wise.

2. Moses had wisdom to:
Delegate responsibility (Exod. 18:25-26)

Wisdom recognizes the virtue of divided responsibility.

Wisdom recognizes that one cannot do it all.

3. Moses had wisdom to:
Seek God's presence and power (Exod. 33:12-34:11)

True wisdom realizes that without God we can do nothing of eternal significance (Jn. 15:5).

C. LOVE
(The motivation of a leader - Exod. 32:11-35)

Love is not mere sentiment, but concern put into action)

1. Moses was concerned about God's testimony (Exod. 32:11-14)
(He shared God's attitude toward His holy reputation)

2. Moses was concerned for God's honor (Exod. 32:15-30)
(He shared God's attitude of hatred for sin)

Psalm 97:10 - "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil" (cp. Prov. 3:7; 8:13; 16:6)

3. Moses was concerned for God's people (Exod. 32:31-35)
(He shared God's attitude of compassion for His people)

Cp. After the spies evil report and the people's response - the plot to make a new captain (Num. 14:4) yet Moses asks God for mercy (14:17-20).

Moses was like the leader Jeremiah who wept over God's rebellious people.

D. HUMILITY
(The mind-set of a leader - Num. 11-12, 16 *12:3)

1. Moses was humble enough
to see his own limitations (11:14-17 *v. 14)

2. Moses was humble enough
to see that God could use others [not just himself]
(11:25-29 *v. 29)

3. Moses was humble enough
to let God take care of his problems (Num. 12 & 16)

a. Moses allowed God to defend him before Aaron and Miriam (Num. 12)

Moses had authority because of:
1) His position (v. 7 - "My servant")

2) His practice (v. 7 - "faithful")

3) His preaching (v. 8 - "God's Word only")

b. Moses allowed God to vindicate him before the rebellion of Korah (Num. 16)

III. The TRANSGRESSION of Moses

(The Mistake of a Great Leader)

(Numbers 20:1-13)

INTRODUCTION:

One distinctive feature that sets the Bible apart from other historical writings is its relentless willingness to mention the transgressions of its heroes.

If the greatest human leader who ever lived "fell into sin," we need to take heed, lest we fall.

A. The Heated Pressures That Provoked Moses to Sin (v. 1-5)

What hot pressures did Moses face?

1. A long time in the desert (v. 1)
   Moses is now 120 years old. The wilderness and responsibility no doubt took its "toll" on him.

2. His sister's death (v. 1)

3. Absence of water (v. 2)

4. Collective opposition (v. 2)

5. Verbal strife (v. 3)

   a. Complaint (v. 3b)

   b. Interrogation (v. 4)

      Moses' motives are questioned.

   c. Unjust blame (v. 5)

      Moses is credited (blamed) for a work he did not do. It was God, not Moses, who led Israel out into the

wilderness. And it was their parent's unbelief at Kadesh which caused them to wander for 40 years.

The leaders, Moses and Aaron, did what all of God's leaders should do in times of pressure and need -- they entered God's presence and sought divine answers.

B. The Haughty <u>Presumption</u> That Produced Moses' Sin (v. 7-11)

Note: The basis for Moses' act of sin was a moment of <u>unbelief</u> (mistrust) - v. 12)

Great leaders with moments of unbelief:
Elijah -
John the Baptist -

Faith always results in obedience, and unbelief always result in disobedience.

1. Sinful <u>attitudes</u> (v. 10)

   a. <u>Impatience</u> - "Hear now"

   b. <u>Anger</u> - "Ye rebels"

      SEE: Moses' "rash words" in Psalm 106:32-33

   c. <u>Pride</u> (self-exaltation) - "Must <u>we</u> fetch you water?"

      It was not Moses and Aaron, but <u>God</u> who "split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them abundant drink like the ocean depths. <u>He</u> brought forth streams also from the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers" (Ps. 78:15-16).

2. Sinful action (v. 11)

a. The sin of omission (Moses did not do what he was told to do)

It is important to note that an omission will eventually pave the way for an addition.

Because Aaron was Moses' translator (Exod. 4:14-17), Moses was to speak to the rock and Aaron was to repeat his words loud enough for all of the people to hear.

b. The sin of commission (Moses did what he was not told to do)

Moses' striking the stone revealed a lack of faith. It had been striking the rock that brought result the last time God provided water for the people (Exod. 17:6). Consequently, this time, rather than obeying God's new directions and "speaking to it," Moses struck it and for good measure he struck it twice.

C. The High Price That Was Paid for Moses' Sin (v. 12)

Two-fold price:

1. A failure of testimony (v. 12)

Moses failed despite pragmatic results (v. 8 & 11).

The end does not justify the means; results do not justify disobedience.

Moses failed despite the fact that God was still glorified.

The miracle would have been more impressive if Moses had

spoken to the rock, rather than striking it like he did before (Ex. 17:5-6).

2. A forfeit of blessing (v. 12)

*Leaders are responsible to pay for their own sin.

Three views on Deut. 1:37 - "For your sakes" -

(1) Moses is blaming Israel for his sin (No)

(2) Moses as leader, had to bear full responsibility for the sins of the people he led (No - cp. Jer. 31:30; Ezek. 18:19-24; Ex. 32:32-33)

(3) Moses was provoked to wrath and sin "because of them" (Israel) (Yes - Ps. 106:32-33)

a. Moses is restricted (Deut. 32:49-52)
(The severity of a leader who sins)

Why such a strict judgment?

Answer: Leaders face stricter judgment (Ja. 3:1). Why?

1) They should know better (Lk. 12:48)

2) They are examples. Public figures fall hardest.

b. Moses is regretful (Deut. 3:23-27)
(The sorrow of a leader who sins)

Moses tries to appeal to . . .

--God's compassion (v. 23 - "besought" = a prayerful begging)
--God's greatness (v. 24)
--God's emotions (v. 25)

. . . but to no avail.
Sin is forgivable, but its scars, repercussions, after-effects are not removed (Ex: David - II Sam. 12:1-15; Ps. 51).

c. Moses is replaced (Num. 27:16-23)
(The substitute of a leader who sins)

No leader, preacher, teacher, worker is irreplaceable or indispensable.

God's holiness demands that his standards for leadership be upheld (I Tim. 3:1-7).

Moses did not let his heart-breaking personal loss keep him from being faithful to his people and God's mission (v. 16).

CONCLUSION: Warning:

Moses' sin came at the end of a life of great spiritual victories, faithful service and astonishing miracles.

In spite of all this, he was still disqualified because of his sin.

Don't be a "castaway" (I Cor. 9:27).

A Spiritual illustration:

Moses (representing the Law) could not bring the people into the promised land.
However, Joshua (Jesus) could!
Just as the Law cannot bring a sinner into Heaven (since all have broken the Law), but Jesus (our Joshua) can!