

Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses Lesson #1, Preparation of Mind: Education Is Important

Text: Exodus 2:1-10

With regard to *education*, Moses' preparation for leadership was in three stages: **primary**, **secondary**, and **post-graduate**. All three levels were vital to his preparation for leading God's people.

Moses' Primary Education came from his parents, *Aram* and *Jochebed*, 2:1; 6:20 (who also bore his older siblings, *Miriam* and *Aaron*, cf. 2:4ff; 7:7). He was only with both parents for the first three months of his life, but obviously continued to be greatly influenced by his mother who *nurtured* him for Pharaoh's daughter, 2:6-10. Evidence of his *primary education* is derived from 2:11-13. He had been taught of his true heritage- otherwise, how would he have known or been concerned with "*his brethren*," let alone understood the *companionship* that should have existed between them? Additionally, his *primary education* evidently also included: 1) compassion for the oppressed, v.11; Acts 7:24; cf. Luke 10:30,33; 2) training in "*discerning good and evil*," v.12; cf. Heb.5:14; and, 3) a willingness to *get involved*, vv.12-13; Acts 7:24,26-27, even to his own danger and detriment, v.15 (more on these later).

Moses' Secondary Education came from and in the house of Pharaoh. There he was "*educated in all the learning of the Egyptians*" (which was apparently legendary even in ancient times, cf. 1Kings 4:30), and was "*a man of power in words and deeds*," Acts 7:22.

Moses' Post-Graduate Education came from two sources we might easily overlook, but God used to further prepare him for leadership:

- **Sheep**- not *spiritual* sheep, *real* sheep. Think about it. His *primary* and *secondary* education was complete by the time he was about forty, Acts 7:23. His *brethren* were already sorely oppressed, but God apparently didn't yet deem his education complete or sufficient for him to deliver and lead the people out of bondage. So, Moses got some *post-grad* education of a practical nature from tending sheep in Midian, vv.15-23a. Obviously there is much to be learned about "leadership" from being a *shepherd*, cf. Psalms 23; John 10:1-18!
- **Family**- not *brethren* in a *national* or *spiritual* sense, *real* "wife and kids" family. Again, if Moses' *primary* and *secondary* education had adequately prepared him for leadership, why did God wait another forty years to deliver Israel? They were already *sorely oppressed*, and Moses evidently saw himself as their *deliverer*, Acts 7:25. Could it be that God's chosen man still needed some life-lessons on "leadership" that only being the *head of a family* could deliver, cf. 1Tim.3:4-5?

Applications

Consider the roles these three stages of *education* play in preparing us to be "leaders" of God's people today:

The Primary Education from our parents teaches us the foundations of life- not only *who we are*, but *who*, *what*, and *how God expects us to be*, 2Tim.3:14-17.

The Secondary Education from whatever "schooling" we can get teaches us "*the writing and language*" (cf. Dan.1:4) and *ways of people*, that we may effectively communicate and interact with them. Effective communication is vital to leadership.

The Post-Grad Education from work and family teach us responsibility, accountability, and enables us learn general "leadership" in *physical* and *practical* settings that prepare us for *spiritual* and *special* applications for the people of God, Acts 6:3; Titus 1:6-9; Acts 18:3; 20:33-35.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What was the source of Moses' *primary education*?

2. What leadership lessons did he learn from his *primary education*?

3. Can one become an effective leader of God's people today without this source of *primary education*? If not, why not? If so, how?

4. What was the source of Moses' *secondary education*?

5. How did Moses' *secondary education* benefit him in leadership?

6. Can one become an effective leader of God's people today without the benefit of *secondary education*? If not, why not? If so, how?

7. What was the source of Moses' *post-graduate education*?

8. What leadership lessons did he learn from his *post-graduate education*?

9. Can one become an effective leader of God's people today without the benefit of *post-graduate education*? If not, why not? If so, how?