

## **Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses**

### **Lesson #10, Make God's Precepts and Plan Plain**

#### **Text: Ex.4:28-31**

One of the most defining characteristics of a good leader is the ability to identify and stay focused on the goal- to keep the *first things* first. All too often, we "lose our way" simply because we take our eye off "the goal," cf. Matt.14:28-31; Heb.12:1-2. But effective leaders, and that certainly includes the *spiritual* ones, not only clearly identify and effectively communicate that often singular focus, but they also keep it so precisely in view as to make it near impossible to miss or forget, cf. 2Pet.1:12-15. In life, and therefore in leadership pertaining to *eternal* life, it is so very easy to become overly concerned with, distracted by, and even to "*complain of adversity*" on the journey (cf. Num.11:1; 14:1-2) to the point that we become "*like sheep with a shepherd*," and need someone to *teach* and *guide* us back to what is really important, cp. Mark 6:34. This is both the need and role of *spiritual leadership*.

#### **What can we learn from Moses' example in these regards?**

1. **Moses told Aaron "all the words of the Lord with which He had sent him," v.28.** This point was made back in Lesson 5 under the "Full Disclosure is important" section. There it was connected to *preparation of support* relative to *getting the family on board*, with the primary emphasis being that if they were to be involved, they needed to be *fully informed*. Here, the accent needs to be Moses' *leadership of Aaron* from the standpoint of preparing him to do his part of the work. *Preparing* others to help accomplish the goal is part of leadership; and *education* is the primary tool of preparation, cf. John 15:14-15.
2. **Moses and Aaron "assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel," v.29.** Notice the repetitive use of the word "all"- "*all the words*" in the previous verse, now "*all the elders*" in this one. *None* were excluded; leadership is about *transparency* and *inclusion*, not secrecy, self-promotion, or seeking personal accolades, cf. Acts 20:27ff and Num.12:3. Moses had been in Midian for 40 years. He needed the elders- those who had been there all along and whom the people already looked to for guidance, to be "on board." So, he and Aaron went to them *first*. Good leadership works to *include* and *inform* as many as possible, but it's usually wise to start with those already "doing the work"!
3. **Moses "got out of the way" and let Aaron "do his job," v.30.** God had *provided* Aaron (vv.14-16,27), and Moses had *prepared* him (v.28) for the task. But how difficult it sometimes is for "leaders" (in any capacity) to simply *let go* and *let them work*. Despite being provided with prepared people to assist, some still "hold the reins" so tightly as to inhibit the overall objective. Think about the apostles in Acts 6: they (surely by inspiration) *set substantive qualifications*, v.3a; the congregation *provided* men who met those qualifications, v.5; and then the apostles "*put them in charge of this task*," v.3b; and left them to it. It serves no good purpose to appoint others to a task and then *micro-manage* them. Such defeats the whole purpose of the "division of labor," cf. v.4! Aaron "*spoke all the words*" that the Lord had given Moses, and then "*performed the signs*" (ambiguity regarding precisely *to whom* the pronoun refers exists, but most major translations associate it with Aaron). Moses, the *leader*, let Aaron, the *spokesman*, do his job for the benefit of all.
4. **Note what happened next in v.31:**
  - a. **"So the people believed"-** When we do the right *things* in the right *way*, the right *results* usually occur. Moses did this the right *way* and the right *result* followed.
  - b. **"when they heard the Lord was concerned"-** Remember, these people had been enslaved for 400 years (430 total, cf. 12:40). It was important for them to know God still cared for them! It still is. Good, *spiritual* leaders know and communicate this.
  - c. **"and that He had seen their affliction"-** It's not that our "problems" aren't real, or that they aren't legitimately difficult; it's the "what to do about them" where we often need help. God *saw* and *sent* Moses. He still *sees* and *sends* those willing to lead. Are you?
  - d. **"then they bowed low and worshiped"-** They: *believed*; *submitted*; and *worshiped*. Is not this the initial objective of spiritual leadership, cf. Matt.28:19-20?

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**Discussion Questions**

1. What defining characteristic of leadership is highlighted in this lesson?
  
2. Why is this characteristic so important to spiritual leadership?
  
3. Like Jesus and Peter, how do good spiritual leaders today help to keep us focused on the primary goal of life?
  
4. God *provided* Moses with Aaron as a spokesman; specifically, how did Moses *prepare* for the task?
  
5. Why was it important that "*all*" of Israel's elders be assembled and addressed?
  
6. What quality of Moses allowed him to let Aaron *speak* to and *perform signs* for the elders of Israel? (And "No," it was not his perceived lack of eloquence!)
  
7. What does it mean to "micro-manage," and why do good spiritual leaders avoid it?
  
8. Why was it important for *the elders* (and apparently *the people* also) to hear and know that the Lord was "*concerned*" about them and had "*seen their affliction*"?
  
9. What three reactions did people have to Aaron's *words* and *signs*?
  
10. Why are these three reactions (from the previous question) important?