

## Leadership Lessons from the Life of Moses Lesson #8, You Don't Have to Always Understand "Why?"

### Text: Ex.4:21-23

There are many clichés and mantras that extoll the virtue or importance of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in leadership- some of them are even true. But it is also true that *spiritual* leadership, though like its *secular* counterpart in some regards, it different in others. For instance, in *secular* leadership, it's important to know/understand as much as you possibly can about the intended *goal/destination*, *why* it is important, and *how* it is to be reached. But in *spiritual* leadership, we're as much *followers* as *leaders*, 1Cor.11:3, and thus don't always know everything we'd like about the destination/objective, or even understand precisely how it will ultimately be achieved, cf. Phil.3:20-21. Instead, we *trust*, *follow*, and *lead*, cp.1Pet.1:10-16.

### **Moses was told some of "the plan" and his part in it:**

**Who**, Ex.3:4-6; **What**, Ex.3:10; **Why**, Ex.3:7-8a; **Where**, Ex.3:8b; **When**, Ex.3:9-10; and, **How**, Ex.3:12 – 4:9. However, even portions of what he was told were only provided in response to questions he asked, cf. 3:11,13 and 4:1.

### **But consider also what Moses was not told:**

- **Why the initial request was only for "three days journey into the wilderness" to "sacrifice to the Lord our God," 3:18.** We can speculate all we like, but this seems to be a Deut.29:29 issue! Surely there is a divine reason for this command (God always has one), but as a human, Moses evidently did not need to know it.
- **About the ten plagues** (only *generally* about "all My miracles," 3:20, and *specifically* about a few *signs*, 4:1-9), **v.21a**. Surely a man commissioned with such a monumental task would be given complete instructions specifically detailing a 10-step contingency plan! Nope. Moses didn't need to know all that. One step at a time, cf. 6:1.
- **Why God would "harden his (Pharaoh's) heart so that he will not let the people go," v.21b.** Again, we can speculate that it was in order to bring about the complete annihilation of Pharaoh- his dynasty and his army, but Moses certainly isn't made privy to that information at the time, cp. 7:3-4; 11:9-10; 14:4,17-18; and 2Thess.2:7-12.
- **Other "incidental" details like how a couple of million people are supposed to drink, eat, and stave off attackers from Egypt to Canaan, cf. 15:22-26.** Like the previous point, the "answers" become clearer as the story (and years) unfold, but Moses isn't given this kind of logistical information regarding "coming out" of Egypt "going in"!

### **Why is any of this important to *spiritual leaders* today?**

1. **You don't have to have all the answers to lead/help others.** Both Andrew and Philip brought others to Christ, despite just having become believers themselves, John 1:40-49. All that is required to get started in leadership is being willing to share with someone else what you have learned and done- thus illuminating a path you have trod, as did Andrew and Philip.
2. **Learning to lead is an incremental development process.** In the parable of *The Talents*, the servants were given a portion of the Master's possessions "each according to his own ability," cf. Matt.25:14-15. The more *spiritually mature* (as per Heb.5:14) and *cleansed* we become, the more *honorable*, *sanctified*, and "useful to the Master" we are- "prepared for every good work," 2Tim.2:19-21.
3. **You're never going to know "everything there is to know."** At least not in this lifetime, 1Cor.13:12. But thankfully, you don't have to. Moses didn't know *everything there was to know* about God's plan to save Israel- but he was willing to personally *trust*, *obey*, and *follow* God, and *lead* others to do the same!

As we've seen over the previous lessons, *leadership* definitely requires some preparation and lots of dedication. But it is also true that a simple willingness to do what you can when you have opportunity will get you started, cp. 2Cor.8:12; Luke 10:33-37!

