

Who's In Charge?

Baseball Chapel

Exodus 3:15-17; 4:10-17

March 1, 2020

Moses: The Leader

As I was praying about what God would have me speak concerning today's passage and almost immediately my attention was brought to Moses' leadership. This may have been in part because I am in a leadership position myself and I certainly could learn and benefit from this angle. It was also impressed upon me that in looking at the leadership qualities of Moses not only could I benefit but we as a church can better understand the role called leaders play in the body of Christ and the necessary tools they need in order to be successful from a spiritual and practical perspective. What I love most about the leadership examples of Moses is that he was not necessarily the best leader in history, nor was he probably the most qualified. He was, however, certainly an influential man whom God called and used in a great way to establish his chosen people to accomplish a task set before them.

As I spent the past few weeks reading about Moses in both the Bible and extra-biblical sources I noticed two specific qualities about Moses' leadership that I believe can benefit us all today in the Body of Christ. Not only are these qualities of Moses but certainly should be qualities of any leader in the body of Christ or in any leadership role for that matter.

Moses was called by God.

This is probably one of the most important qualities of any spiritual leader PERIOD.

Read Exodus 3:4, 10. As Moses was in the desert serving his father-in-law he came upon a burning bush and heard the voice of God calling him. The voice of God called him by name and gave him specific details as to what He had in store for Moses. God tells Moses He is going to use him to deliver the Israelites out the hands of the Egyptians. Calling is essential to the work of God.

I run into people constantly who have no concept of calling and leadership. Believe it or not leadership (especially in the body of Christ) is a calling and is not necessarily something that is learned. Certainly, people can go to school, college, seminaries etc. and learn how to be a leader of the church but if God has not called this individual to this role they will never be effective for the Kingdom of God. There are people who are able to attract a lot of people, build large church buildings, and convince people to support them in various ways but God will not put his hand of blessing (spiritually speaking) upon an individual who is not called. As humans we have the tendency to associate success with human accomplishments, charisma as a leader and the likeability (or attractiveness) of an individual. When we read this passage nowhere does God refer to Moses' human qualities, confidence or character to accomplish his will. As God speaks to Moses you can see God uses the word "I" a lot. God is the one who accomplishes success and as leaders we would do well to understand and believe this.

Moses was dependent on God.

When you are called by God you also acknowledge that you cannot lead on your own. In fact when you are called you respond much like Moses does in Exodus 4:10 – 12 (Read). When I received my calling my initial response was, "Um, God... Are you sure you have the right man here? I mean look at me, I am overweight, I am not a dynamic speaker, I don't fit any mold for a Pastor and besides I was never a leader, I was always a follower in my younger days. Maybe you were talking to someone next to me and I overheard the conversation." It took time for me to understand that God wasn't calling me because of the things I thought I needed to be, He was calling me in spite of me. A called leader knows that success comes when we are completely dependent on God. Ultimately, I have no control over the success of my ministry. My job is to be available when God calls and completely dependent on him when he does. *Read Exodus 33:12 -16.* Moses basically says, "I will go wherever you call me to go, however I will not go unless you go before me." A true leader knows he cannot accomplish anything for God unless God goes before him.

The story of Moses' life is one of the most fascinating stories in the Bible. It gives me encouragement to know that God is not out actively seeking for men and women who "have it together" to accomplish his will. I look at the successes and failures of Moses during his lifespan and I see the hand of God in all aspects of this man's life. As individuals and as a congregation we can also be encouraged that God's hand is upon us to accomplish his will here in Spring Valley. God has done some amazing things in the history of the nation of Israel (I would encourage you to read through these stories in the outline) and I believe He can and does still have amazing things in store for his Church as well; what they may be, I don't know, we can only pray, wait and see.