

Jiri Moskala
2nd Session, April 16, 2007
Leadership Essentials in the Life of Moses

When God led Israel out of Egypt, where did he lead them?

Mt. Sinai or Promised land?

Wrong

Exo 19:4

Exodus 19:4 ⁴ 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt and how I lifted you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

God is saying, I want to build a personal relationship with you—my people!

Most important thing for God: not an objective, goals, vision, but people.

Ultimate goal: relationship with my people.

Both biblical creation accounts are about relationships: with God (chapter 1) and with Adam and Eve (chapter 2)

Leadership style must be person-oriented and not goal-oriented.

No dichotomy between the two, but matter of priority

First person, then goals

For leadership behavior, emphasis is on interpersonal relationships

How did God build this meaningful relationship with Moses?

How did Moses grow in the Lord?

How did God change him?

What was the result of his walk with God?

Spiritual Growth: Crucial Prerequisite for a Leader

Very instructive in Exo 19 – 34

Question: Why was Moses' face shining?

For the first time, Moses' face was not radiant Exo 19:3

But Moses went back up to God: Exo 19:7 (2nd time)

Exodus 19:5-6 ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

2nd climbing to Sinai

Exodus 19:13-14 ¹⁴ After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.

No word yet of face shining

Exodus 19:20 ²⁰ The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up

Exodus 19:25 ²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Three times with the Lord, but face not yet radiant

What was it that brought the change to the life of Moses?

In the past I thought that Moses' face was radiant because he was in the presence of the Lord.

Therefore, what will bring the change?

Then, in Exo 20 the gift of law came.

Speak to us yourself, Moses, or if God speaks we will die.

After that God invited Moses to come up to the Mt 4th time

Then, Moses approached the thick darkness where God was...

Exo 24:3 Moses is going down—the people responded: everything the Lord says, we will do.

Still, no one statement about his face shining

Now, in Exo 24:9-11

Exodus 24:9-11 ⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

God prepared a banquet for them.

We take this for granted, but in the Middle East, that is the greatest honor for us.

When you eat, you create a bond of communion with both families.

Now, in our individualistic society, we have lost this communion.

Compare why the Pharisees are so angry when Jesus was eating with sinners.

This is what we are doing when celebrating the Lord's supper.

We are actually forming the family of God: the church

Who was Nadab and Abihu?
Priests, sons of Aaron, leaders.

After several weeks they were dead in the tabernacle.
They saw God and still their faces were not radiant!

Their faces were pale, they were dead!

You can see the Lord and have a great experience with Him and still be spiritually dead!

God's invitation to Moses...

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction." ¹³ Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. ¹⁴ He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them." ¹⁵ When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, ¹⁶ and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. ¹⁷ To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. ¹⁸ Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. **Exodus 24:12 - 25:1**

Now, for the 5th time Moses is with the Lord.

Moses grows into a closer relationship with God.

1st text: Moses climbed the mt.

2nd : top

3rd: then the cloud

Finally, enters the cloud

Now, staying with Him 40 days and 40 nights

Received 2 gifts:

1. law
2. instructions to build tabernacle (Exo 25-31)

Then, after 40 days, Moses is descending:

Was his face shining?

No, face was not yet shining.

Exo 32:19

Exodus 32:19 ¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.

So, we have the golden calf apostasy

Moses 6th climbing

Exodus 32:30-33 ³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." ³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, please forgive their sin-- but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." ³³ The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book."

Moses is the type of Christ

Willingness to offer his life for sinners

Total dedication to the Lord

Great love for people

After such experience and dedication, will his face be radiant?

What a quality for a leader?

Praying for their eternal life.

Not yet was his face radiant!

What still was missing?

In what was Moses still needing to grow?

Exodus 33:7-8 ⁷ Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. ⁸ And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent.

Now, build Moses, a tent of meeting—not the sanctuary which was in the middle of the camp.

Here outside of the camp was built this tent of meeting.

But one day when Moses was in the tent of meeting, in a great personal relationship with God, he realized that he does not know the Lord.

Num 12:3 Now Moses was a very humble man, more than anyone else.

Exodus 33:13 ¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

So far, how does Moses know God?

Mighty warrior, caring father, etc.

Moses desired new insights into the person of God.

Moses was teachable—he knew, but does not know everything!

Exo 33:13 must be teachable

A special request....Please show me Your glory.

I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you! (Exo 33:19)

The goodness of God is His glory.

What brings people to repentance?

7th climbing of Sinai

Exodus 34:4-5 ⁴ So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

Exodus 34:6-7 ⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

This is the John 3:16 of the OT

This is the self-revelation of God

Very beautiful statement about the character of God

Now the Definition of God's character

The glory of God is His character

God is seen as God of love

Not enough to come into the presence of God; important to come and live in the presence of the Lord.

But even more crucial is to know Him and open our hearts that He can change us.

Amazing grace is amazing because it is transforming—otherwise, it is not transforming.

To give glory to God means to convey His character

2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Here's the transformation needed to reflect the goodness of God in our minds and character

Now for the 2nd time, 40 days and nights

Exodus 34:28 ²⁸ Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant-- the Ten Commandments.

60 days without food, and maybe 3 days without water

It means that the Lord was to him everything: the whole experience/source of energy

Exodus 34:29 ²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.

Now, his face is shining

Why was his face radiant?

Now, a new experience with the Lord.

He had discovered the goodness of the Lord.

Also, what is great about the story—he didn't know his face was shining.

People don't know about it.

Important lesson: To be a great Leader, you must be willing to be led!

Not by his spouse, his friends, his advisors, members, advisors, etc.

He/she allows God to be his/her Leader!

Our job is not to get the people to listen to us is to get them to listen to Holy Spirit.

We must not put ourselves in the place of God

12 spies did not have the vision—only two had faith to move forward.

There is the danger in shared vision, but also be cautious that the pastor grows together with the congregation

Good vision does not come from consensus, but leads to consensus

Transformational leadership

We are first transformed by God

Then, we can influence others when we have this right relationship with God.

Leader must grow in the knowledge of God and daily walk with Him.

Gandhi: my life is my message

Francis of Assisi: preach Christ always and when necessary, use words.

Additional Lessons for God-fearing leader

Moses: you cannot work alone

Numbers 11:16-17 ¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take

of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

God's Spirit: 2 insights into Moses' humility...

1. Dependence on God's Spirit
2. Acceptance of God's Spirit in others (see especially Num 11:24-29)

Bring 70 elders that already are recognized as leaders

Delegated leadership (see Num 11:28-29)

Numbers 11:28-29 ²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!" ²⁹ But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

Greatest aspect of Moses' leadership: absence of pride, jealousy, and ambitious pride

Exo 18: 21-23 Story of Jethro

Leader creates space for others—welcomes different opinions, views, feelings, etc.

Leader has less honor among those he/she loves most (Num 12:1-10)

Aaron's and Miriam's ambitions

It doesn't mean it will be easy for us.

Family may not always go along

Moses was the man of God.

Need to be person of God to accomplish things which he has in mind for us and his people!