

Throughout the book of Exodus we see the rise of Moses' leadership from God calling him out to be a leader. However, Moses was not all that accepting at first. He seemed to have different hesitations and an unwillingness to accept. Moses' unwillingness to accept at first led to some negative feelings to his calling and other downfalls to his character as a leader but over time as he leads he seems to grow into his calling as a leader and lead courageously with that same passion he had in the beginning.

In Exodus 2:11-12 it states how Moses was a man who could easily be filled with fervor and passion for a cause. When Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew he right away took matters into his own hands and killed the Egyptian. It seems that Moses started off to be a man that would easily be influenced by a situation and react to a situation. This can be a good quality in a leader in making quick decision or having a drive to accomplish something. Passion for a cause is something that many leaders need to have in order for their influence with others to be contagious. However, this type of passion or fervor can also lead to one's destruction. If a leader always reacts to a situation and not think things through thoroughly it may have destructive outcomes to others that are following and the leader as well. We see this destructiveness or negative appeal to Moses when he was rejected by Hebrews when he tried to intervene during a quarrel between two Hebrews stated in Exodus 2:13-14. Moses became afraid and probably ashamed of what he did in the past and in turn fled to the Midian.

"The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, 'Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?' The man said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?' Then Moses was afraid and thought, 'What I did must have become know. When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.'" (Exodus 2:13-15)

God had His eye on Moses and after many years later, when Moses was in Midian, God call to him through a burning bush. However, Moses was no longer as confident in his leading abilities

as he had been before, and so he argued with God that he really wasn't able to do the things God was sending him to do. We might say that Moses became a "reluctant" leader. In Exodus chapter 3 through chapter 4 we see Moses showing much doubt, fear, and distrust. These are not good qualities of a leader. And as a Christian leader we must always try to remember to place our trust in God to be our ultimate source of strength and power. In Exodus 3 and 4 it seems that Moses was falling away from a total dependence on God. I do not claim as a leader we should never doubt. It is hard sometimes to always know God will provide a way even when things seem they are not going to happen. Doubt and fear can creep in but if God has called one to be a leader that person must rise up in the midst of doubt and place their trust in God to accomplish more than he could do on his own. I believe this is a true mark of a leader lead by God. Later on in Exodus chapter 4 through chapter 11 we see Moses rising up as this type of a leader. He is following through with the instructions from God to take to Pharaoh even when it seemed impossible and there was much fear in Moses on how Pharaoh would react to the Hebrew people and to himself. Moses shows his authority to the people of Israel with confidence in Exodus 4:29-31, but showed doubt and trust in his own abilities in Exodus 6:10-12 and 6:28-30. There was this battle of fear and trust in God as Moses was trying to follow through with the instruction from God to free the people of Israel from Pharaoh's rule.

In Exodus 8:29-31 Moses starts becoming bolder and confident in who he was as a spokesman for God and leader of the Hebrew people. Moses lays out clearly what he will do and what he requires of Pharaoh to do. Moses also keeps his word by praying for Pharaoh so that the plague of the flies would leave him. Two great qualities of a leader are applied in these three verses. First, a good leader will lay out instructions clearly of what is expected and give the instructions with confidence. If you are not clear and confident as a leader in what you present to others then you will soon find people not following you and the instructions will break down and not be followed through. In Exodus 11:31-32 we see that Pharaoh finally after many plagues lets the Israelites go. This happens because one, Pharaoh is fed up with all the devastation and two, because Moses was consistent and confident in approaching Pharaoh with the request from God

to "let my people go." Moses took the call serious to present God's message to Pharaoh. A second thing that is shown in Exodus 8:29-31 of a good quality in a leader is being a leader who keeps his word. Moses said to Pharaoh that he would pray for him and that the plague of flies would leave and he did. Even though Pharaoh did not keep up his end of the deal Moses kept his word and did what he said he would do.

Another good quality of a leader that develops in Moses as he was leading the Israelites out of Egypt is of encouragement. When the Egyptians were coming after the Israelites and a sea was preventing them to go any further the Israelites were terrified and yelling at Moses saying, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?" (Exodus 14:10-12). Moses responded by saying, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (Exodus 14:13-14). Moses was trying to build courage in the people of Israel to trust.

Encouragement is not about saying good things about someone to puff them up, but true encouragement is to build courage in a person to keep on moving forward in a cause. As a leader building courage to trust and take risks is so important to build a strong team of people. Building courage in a people is showing your commitment to a cause and is an example to others of not giving up even when the situation seems hopeless. I believe Moses was doing this as he was telling the people to "stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today" (Exodus 14:13). This same quality also comes out of Moses when the Israelites were in the desert and very thirsty and were again grumbling to Moses, stated in Exodus 17:1-3. Moses keeps his composure and sets an example for the people to trust God and not to grumble. Being a living example of what you believe will speak louder than words to a people you will lead. Moses does this by going to God first before trying to do anything else and God again provides for the Israelite people by giving them water from a rock.

In Exodus 17:8-10 and Exodus 18:24-26 we read how Moses gives direct orders to the Israelites.

Moses starts developing a more direct approach to his leadership in giving orders he receives from God. The directness and delegation that Moses proclaimed is a quality that needs to be a characteristic of every good leader. As a leader you have authority and you should operate in your authority. No one wants to follow a leader who is not direct and has no confidence in himself. Also, a leader needs to stay a leader and not be the person who does everything. If a leader does everything for a team of people that leader will grow weary as Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, stated in Exodus 18:18. Delegation is apart of being a leader. You need to be direct in giving roles and assignments to others and support those in those roles you assign. Delegation is a very important quality of a leader and was encouraged by Jethro and done by Moses in Exodus 18:17-26.

When Moses first returned to Egypt and began to approach Pharaoh about letting the people of Israel go from their captivity, things seemed to go badly. Pharaoh made conditions even worse for the Israelites than they had been before, and the Israelites, in turn, began to grumble about Moses' interference. The Israelites even said they would have preferred to be left alone rather than for someone to come along and stir things up, making things worse for them. Later, when the Israelites were out from Egypt in the wilderness, they distrusted and fell away from Moses' leadership at different times. Even though they had seen God's mighty work through Moses during their miraculous escape from Egypt, providing manna for them to eat, and providing water from a rock, they still turned to idol worship as stated in Exodus 32 while Moses was receiving the Sabbath Law from God on Mount Sinai. Sometimes we think that serving God will mean that everyone will recognize our call from God and will cooperate with us to help accomplish God's will, but we need to remember that everyone tends to think that they are the center of the universe. Moses had to work with, as Exodus states, "stiff-necked people," and rise up as a leader even when he was not respected nor trusted sometimes as a leader. This could be the same for the Christian leader today. The Christian leader needs to really be connected to God and lead with confidence even when others are not in agreement. A leader should not think that everyone will always be in agreement with him but the leader needs to be confident in his calling

from God first and foremost.

Moses' leadership was developed through his calling from God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to establishing the law of God to the people as well. He was first very hesitant about his call to be a leader but then developed into a very confident leader with passion, fervor and drive to lead the Israelite people. Moses was a man who held on to God for his direction and was an example to others as a leader to keep their eyes on God.