

2-9-25 How to Lead: Mistakes Leaders Make

Week 2

Text: Numbers 20:1-12; Hebrews 12:1-3

Topic: Moses, Endurance

Big Idea of the Message: Moses ran out of patience and allowed his frustration to get away from him and lost his great reward. Conversely, Jesus endured to the end and will receive us as His reward.

Application Point: As godly leaders, we must endure patiently until the end.

What circumstances, or issues test your patience?

Moses the man of God was special before the Lord because he was:

1. The humblest man on earth (**Num. 12:3**).
2. Faithful in all God's house (**Num. 12:7**).
3. Spoke to God face to face (**Num. 12:8**).
4. Pattern for the Prophet to come (**Deut. 18:18**).
5. There would be no other Prophet that knew the Lord like he did (**Deut. 34:10-12**).
6. Found grace in the sight of the Lord (**Exo. 33:17**).

His life story is amazing, and his leadership was remarkable. He had never wanted to lead the people of God but did so out of obedience. In Exodus we read that he pleaded with God **"O Lord please send someone else to do it"** (**Exodus 4:13**). We also know that he had a bit of a temper, there was the killing of the Egyptian and the throwing down of the stones of the law that remind us of that.

Something to think about. What do we see in **verse 1**? (The death of Miriam)

Moses had been leading the Israelites through the wilderness for nearly 40 years, and it seems like every time he turned around, they were quarreling, complaining, grumbling and even plotting his demise.

Read Numbers 20: 2-5.

When they reached the Red Sea -- with Egypt's chariots close behind them the people said to Moses, **"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? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"** Exodus 14:11-12

Later, they complain about the food they ate. **"The whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Exodus 16:2-3**

Then they complained about the water. **“The people quarreled with Moses and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ And Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?’” So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” Exodus 17:2-4**

And when they’re about to enter the Promised Land... they do it again: **“All the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!” Numbers 14:2**

Every time Moses turned around; it seemed like these people were nipping at his heels. And it got so bad at one point that Moses complained to God, **“Why have You brought such trouble on Your servant? Why are You angry with me, and why do You burden me with all these people? Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth so You should tell me, ‘Carry them at your breast, as a nursing woman carries a baby,’ to the land that You swore to give their fathers? Numbers 11:11-12.**

So, as leaders what should we do when we aren’t sure or under fire of life?

1. Go to God!

- God knows better than us what we are dealing with. Last week we talked about Aaron being persuaded to craft a gold calf and how he didn’t take responsibility for it. I mention that God was angry, and that Moses was so angry he broke the tablets that the ten commandments were on. I didn’t read just how mad this incident made God. **(Exodus 32:8-10)**

Read Numbers 20:6-9.

Moses and Aaron did what all children of God should do, they took their concerns to the Lord.

2. Avoid responding from a place of anger.

Read Numbers 20:10-12.

What did God tell Moses to do and what did he do? (God said speak to it, but Moses hit the rock twice) Moses had enough, **“Hear now, you rebels! Must WE bring water for you out of this rock?”**

There are several views about what Moses did wrong. Some believe God was angry because Moses didn’t follow instructions. Moses was supposed to speak to the rock, but instead he struck the rock not once...but twice, and he apparently struck it in anger calling the people **“rebels.”** And I think there’s something to that.

But I think there was something more going on. God told Moses, **“You did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of Israel...”** the **ESV** says, **“you did not believe in Me, to uphold Me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel...”**

Moses did not proclaim God’s power... he proclaimed his own! “You jack wagons want to grumble and complain at me? Well, just let me show you what I CAN DO!!!” And in his frustration with the Israelites, he forgot about GOD, and he focused on himself.

3. Keep your focus on God.

I don't think that Moses' sin was that he got frustrated and upset.

Let's uncover some points that happened when Moses lost his temper and lost focus

1. Moses allowed his emotions (frustration) to control him.

- He behaved in a way that was sinful because he let his frustration get the better of him.
- Now there's all kinds of things that can frustrate us. For example - there's SMALL things like getting stuck in traffic, or doing anything at Walmart, or having to tell your kids to clean up after themselves over and over repeatedly. SMALL things can frustrate us and - it's not the frustration... it's how we respond to the frustration that makes the difference. It can cause us to lose our temper. Or curse under our breath.
- What about the BIG frustrations?
- But what about an annoyance, frustrations that won't go away? What if they are frustrations that keep staring you in the face and keep coming back at us.
- These are the frustrations that really bug us... because we can't fix it! We can't change it! We can't control it! And we can't get away from it... it traps us!
- Kind of like the Israelites who were always quarreling with Moses. They just keep coming back at us.

2. Moses' uncontrolled emotions lead to disobedience and loss of his testimony.

- When we follow our own path and not the path of God, we fall outside His will and His blessing.
- I can think of actions in my own life that would be like this, an emotional response, a nasty comment, snapping at the kids, friends, family over something they have done.
- Emotions like anger, sadness, happiness, elation, love, passion or even joy can be a little dangerous.
- How many times has my frustrations led to me not giving a good testimony for God?
- There is nothing wrong with emotions; God gave us emotions; I believe that he is an emotional God.
- We read about His joy, and His anger, His love, His compassion and many more aspects of his personality and that He delights in us his children when we do His will.
- God delights in us when we do his will! We are to do the will of God!

3. Moses allowed his emotions and frustrations to take him out of the will of God.

- **Read verse 13.**
- The word "**Meribah**" which means waters of quarrelling or waters of strife. They did not enter; the next generation entered the Promised Land.
- The way that we can stop our frustrations from leading us to sinful behavior. The key to look to God for His guidance and help.

Paul said this:

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation (frustrations) I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every

circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13

- If we hold on to God as your source of **HOLINESS** God will carry us through. He'll give us the strength to do what we must do.
- In God's Holiness there is power. Moses and Aaron had experienced God's Holiness, his power; they themselves had sinned because of their lack of trust.
- All they needed to do was to trust in the Lord, to speak to the rock God had told them he would provide water. God's Holiness is power, their sin was weakness.
- God is Holy, ... an all-consuming fire, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, awesome beyond belief, mighty to save, God is great, we are told that we cannot look upon him without being destroyed, now that is a glimmer of what and how Holy God is. How do we relate to him? We relate by doing his will!
- We are to live by his word and with the leading and the power of his Holy Spirit. That is how we are to relate to our Holy God.

4. Moses' uncontrolled emotions led to sin.

- Did Moses ever make it into the Promised Land?
- Well... he sinned, and God said, "**you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.**" Moses was allowed to go the top of Mt. Pisgah and see the Promised Land - and then he died, and God buried him.
- Somehow, that doesn't seem fair. Moses was a nice guy. He was holy and humble. He talked to God all the time and he did almost everything God told him to do. And yet he didn't get to lead Israel across the Jordan.
- One sin!
- That was all that kept Moses out of the Promised Land. Just like ONE SIN would be all it would take to keep us out of heaven.
- The Bible is quite clear - all it takes is ONE SIN! But we have an advantage... we have Jesus.
- Jesus died so that we could be forgiven of ALL OUR SINS, and it's ONLY through Jesus that we get into OUR Promised Land/heaven.

Conclusion

It's too bad that Moses didn't have Jesus to get him into the Promised Land. (LONG PAUSE)

But WAIT... Moses did get into the Promised Land! **Matthew 17:1-8.**

Moses got into the Promised Land! How did he get there? Well - Jesus brought him. The only reason Moses got into the Promised Land... was because of Jesus. And that's the only reason we'll get into heaven.

If we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God. If we acknowledge that we have sinned in our lives and that we need to repent. If we are willing to confess that Jesus will now be our Lord and Master And if we allow ourselves to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. That's all we need to do to be assured that Jesus will bring us with Him to heaven.

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.