

Leading God's People

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Intro: Leading God's people, it's where God calls ordinary men and women to lead ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. He uses **Ambitious Leaders** like **Paul**, **Reluctant Leaders** like **Moses** and he uses **Leaders** that don't even know they are **leaders** like **Gideon**.

But God is always in the way of leading His people to new and higher levels of Faith and Commitment.

--J. Oswald Sanders said: "No one need aspire to leadership in the work of God who is not willing to pay a price greater than his contemporaries and colleagues are willing to pay. True leadership always exacts a heavy toll on the whole man, and the more effective the leadership is, the higher the price to be paid".

Background on Moses: (Exodus 2:11-15) ~ Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

Moses at this time was a very educated man able to speak both Egyptian and Hebrew. We see that he had just killed an Egyptian who was beating pretty severely a Hebrew boy. When Pharaoh (probably Thutmose III) found out Moses fled to the land of Midia.

Moses was now 40 years old and would spend the **next 40 years** as a shepherd in the land of Midia. The Midianites lived in the South Eastern Sinia and Northwestern Arabia on both sides of the Gulf of Aqaba – A desert land also called the wilderness.

Exodus Chapter 3 ~ God calls Moses (at age 80) to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the promise land. Moses informs God of why he should not.

- 1. Who am I?** No God given self worth.... Do you know how many Christian Who am I's are out there.
- 2. I don't know what to say.** You never did, I will tell you what to say
- 3. What if they don't listen to me?** Not your problem, Just tell them
- 4. My speech is bad, I am not eloquent.** Billy Sunday & D.L. Moody known as mutilators of the English language.

I hope you get this because I aint gonna tell youns guys this agin.

That leads us to Exodus 13 & 14 where we see maybe one of the greatest stories of leadership in the entire Bible.

Read ~ Exodus 13:17-18 ~ Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near**; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ **So God led** the people around *by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea*. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

Moses had just spent 40 years in the wilderness – God said you are **not** going the **short route** toward Beersheba and Negeb – You are **not** taking the **military road** along the Mediterranean Sea —You are leading the people **through the wilderness** – Moses went from the wilderness to the wilderness!

**** But God's people don't like the wilderness, leaders don't like the desert** (They will get mad, confused and complain). **Yep!** God had trained Moses in the wilderness for 40 years so he could effectively lead in the wilderness.

**** They were going in the right direction, not the desired direction. It was God who led them there for a purpose.**

Chapter 14 we see Four Phases in Leadership

1. The Decision of Pharo ~ (Exodus 14:5-9) ~ Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” **6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him.** ⁷ Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. ⁹ So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

Pharo ordered his troops to pursue the children of Israel to bring them back. After a three day journey it appeared the Israelites had made a wrong turn and ended up between a rock and a hard place (The Egyptian army and the Red Sea).

Satan’s desire is to pursue you and pursue the church to cause as much havoc and dissention as he can.

In Job 1:6-7 Satan is walking to and fro and walking back and forth on the earth. **In Matthew Chapter 4** Jesus is led into the wilderness by the Spirit and Satan peruses Him. **2 Corinthians 11:14** tells us that Satan transformed into an angel of light. **And Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:18** says “We would have come to you again but Satan hindered us”.

1 Peter 5:8 ~ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, **seeking** whom he may devour.

Pharo made a bad decision that would cost him dearly in the end. **I wanted to show some of the young strong compass guys** I still had it by grabbing a hold of pastor Ritchey’s Piano to move it 2

weeks ago..... **Bad decision!!!** I herd someone say’ get him some donuts he needs some donuts.

2. The Despair of the People ~ (Exodus 14:10-12) ~ And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. **So they were very afraid**, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² *Is* this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? **For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.**”

Be advised the wilderness can bring out the worst in people. But it can also bring out the best. In fear and anger they cried out to Moses “we were better off back in Egypt” this happened throughout the Exodus that when the pressure was on the leaders took a beating.

Charles Stanly said ~ The trouble with being a leader is there are times when you are not sure whether the people are following you or chasing you.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 ~ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, **but not in despair**; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed— ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

3. The Declaration of Moses: (Exodus 14:13-14) ~ And Moses said to the people, “**Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today.** For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ **The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.**”

Don’t be afraid, Watch God work. All through history God called the Israelites to remember those things He did for them in the

wilderness. Later Joshua would say the same thing “Fear Not keep going”

Stand firm and see the deliverance of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 33:27 says, “The eternal God *is your* refuge, And underneath *are* the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’

4. The Decree of God ~ (Exodus 14:15-18) ~ And the LORD said to Moses, “**Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.** ¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea. ¹⁷ And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

Move Forward!!! ~ You, then the Greek word “attah” which means at this time, right now. **Use what’s in your hand (the staff) and move forward.** Create a way, a valley for the people to move on.

The commitment and work for the kingdom will not stop nor pause as we work through the process of getting a new senior pastor at Grace Bible Church. We have a committed, humble, and godly Deacon Board working diligently on our behalf, behind the scenes every day. You have a pastoral staff excited to see God work in and through His people during this transitional time in our churches history.

Grace Bible Church will celebrate its 100 birthday in a few short months. Let us all be found faithful until His glorious return.