

BECOMING A LEADER

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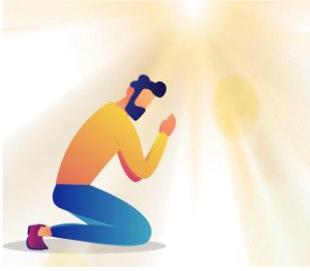
INTRODUCTION

Our New Life friend Johnny Hunt who is a pastor of a large church in the USA shared this lecture with us and it is my special privilege to pass it on to you. I hope you will enjoy it and that you will find it beneficial. Please remember that this is Johnny sharing. He begins by saying, "I want to talk about the day that Moses became a leader. If I understand your role, all of you are training to be leaders. When a servant of God **decides** to be a leader, he crosses a very important line. He is no longer judged only by what he can do himself. His value now depends mainly on what he can do **through** others. So, God does not only call each of you to be a leader, God is training you to lead others. And also to train others to become leaders."

I. PERSONAL INTENT

Moses had a visit from his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro had two questions for his son-in-law. He said, "Tell me, Moses, what are you doing?" And then he asked a very important question. He said, "Moses, *why* are you doing it?" (Exodus 18:14). It is very, very important that you not only know what you are doing, but that you also know why you are doing it. When a person teaches other people, he should have **content**. But that person should also have **intent**. Every Lord's Day I stand in the pulpit and preach the Word of God. That is what I do as a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But the question needs to be asked, "Why do I do that every week?" I do it because Jesus Christ is in the business of building His Kingdom. So I preach in the hope that many people will come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way. I also preach in order to build up those that already know Jesus in a personal way. So I am preaching in order to exalt my wonderful Savior.

II. GOD'S INTENT



When Jethro said, “Moses, what are you doing?” He said, “I get up very early every morning, and I work very late every day, and I allow the people to come, and I give them judgment concerning their needs.” Jethro said, “You do all of this by yourself?” “Why do you do all of this by yourself?” Moses answered, “Because the people ask me to do it.” Are you giving the people what they ask you to give them? Or are you giving the people what God told you to give them? Jethro said, “Moses, if you continue to work the way you are working, you will wear away very soon.” He said, “This is not only not good for you, it is not good for the people.” (Exodus 18:17-18)

Let me pose a question to your heart. During our time together, suppose the Spirit of God were to say to your life, “The way you are doing ministry is not good.” Would you be open to say, “God, how would You like me to do it?” The Bible says “*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord*” (Psalm 37:24 NKJV).

Jethro said, “Moses, the task is too heavy for you.” And then he gave him a wonderful promise. You can find this promise in verse 19. He said, “*Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel*” And listen to this wonderful, wonderful promise. He said, “*...and God will be with you.*” (Exodus 18:19 NKJV). Many people will be with you in your ministry, but you must have **God** with you. You can have everyone with you but God, and there will be a great void in your ministry. So all of us need God in our ministry.

III. CHANGE YOUR WAY OF THINKING

In order for Moses to be the leader God wanted him to be, he was going to have to change his way of thinking. We have a little statement we use in America. We call it the seven last words of the devil. “We have never done it that way before.” And so we must be willing to change the way we think. And when someone says, “Why do you do ministry the way you do ministry?” You will say, “This is my blueprint, I follow my blueprint.”

When you change your way of **thinking**, you will then change your way of **working**. I want to talk about seven major changes that you must make in order to become a good leader.

A. Moses became a man of prayer

The first principal is found in verse number 19. Let me read that verse. “*Listen now to my voice, and I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.*” (Exodus 18:19 NKJV). Moses was to become God’s **representative** before the people. When the people would bring a problem to Moses, there was a time when Moses tried to solve their problem. He never had time to do what God wanted him to do; because he was busy doing what the people wanted him to do. But the day that Moses became a leader, someone would bring their need to Moses and Moses would say, “Let us pray about it. Let me take that cause to God.”

Often times we make too little of prayer. We almost apologize for prayer. We may say, “I will pray for you. That is the least I can do.” No, that is the most you can do. God may lead you to do more, but you cannot do more until you have prayed. You are able to evoke God’s blessings on their life. Remember, Paul said, “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*” (Philippians 4:7 NKJV). And he gave this promise. “*...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 4:6 NKJV). That means God would set a citadel of angels around your heart and mind. I do not have that type of power to influence your life, but my Heavenly Father does. **There is no great leader without a great prayer life.**

So, the first major change Moses made was to become a man of **prayer**.

B. Moses was committed to communication

But there is also a second change that Moses made to become a leader. We can find this principle in verse number 20. He committed himself to communication. Let me read verse number 20 for you. “*And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.*” (Exodus 18:20 NKJV). New Life for Churches has the right principle for this ministry. The New Life leaders have brought you all together so



that we may teach you the statutes and the laws of God. But if it all ends there, He and I are failures. We teach you in order that you may communicate to others. Let me give you two truths about being a good teacher. Never forget these two principles. Both words begin with the letter “E”. **Example and Exhortation**.

1. **Example.**

Before I can stand to encourage, and exhort other people, I must first of all be an **example** to those people. I must communicate my life’s message with my **life**, then I **earn** the right to communicate my life’s message with my lips.

Let me give an illustration. I am most comfortable to stand in the pulpit of First Baptist Church Woodstock. I have lived among those people for eight years of my life. They know me very well. They watch the way I live and the way I respond. If my life is a good example to those people, they will hear me gladly every time I open the Word of God. So I must be an example first. Live the Christian life at all times. You and I never have the luxury of being unkind.

2. **Exhortation.**

We should always represent Jesus Christ well. So the day Moses became a leader, he said, “I am going to begin to **teach** other people.” When one talks with Abraham, they realize that he has got a lot of truth down in his heart. And he wants very much to get all of it out before the people. And he works so hard at getting all of it out that many times, at the end of a day he can no longer talk. So eventually he hopes to teach so many others that the day will come that you will be doing the teaching.

C. Moses became a man of vision

There is a third thing that I want you to see. It is also found in verse number 20. Moses became a man of vision. The Bible says he not only taught them the statutes and laws of God, but he even made known to them the way in **which** they were to walk. The only way I can point other people in the right direction is I must have a vision of which way they should go. And so your **communication** becomes your vision. We use this terminology in America.

A leader casts the vision. In his heart of hearts, he knows exactly where his ministry is going. Now, as you cast this vision, then you are able to go out and get others to see the vision. So one of the main duties of a good leader is that you **show** the way in which your people are to walk.

Let me give an illustration. When I became the pastor of my church eight years ago, our church would hardly ever see anyone become a Christian. Our church did not have a vision of winning the lost to Jesus Christ. So I had to give our people a vision of winning the lost to Jesus. I began to teach them about what happens to a person that has never been saved. Jesus said that man would die and go to Hell forever. But Jesus had given us the answer of life through Calvary. So I had to get our people to see that we had the answer. But then as a leader, I trained them how to give their faith away. I would take two people out visiting with me for thirteen weeks. I would teach them to learn what I had learned. Then I would ask each of them to take two and go again. Now, every week when we come together, we have many people to give their lives to Jesus Christ. Our church has caught the vision of winning the lost to Jesus Christ.

Let me give you another living illustration. God gave me a mission’s pastor. He is here with me, Mr. Mack Riggs. Mack Riggs came in and said, “We need to go to the entire world.” He began to cast the vision. Last year, 111 people of our church went to eight different countries to do short term projects. They would never have gone if someone had not cast the vision. I am not talking about just those in full time Christian service. We have our laity out in ministry. He showed us the way in which we were to walk. But there is also a forth characteristic in becoming a leader.

D. Moses also had to become a man of planning



The Bible says in verse number 20, “*show them ...the work they must do.*” (Exodus 18:20 NKJV) Let me tell you the work of any organization. *It is the work of its leader.* Have you ever heard this little saying before? “Monkey see, monkey do.” People do what they see us doing.

Here is a statement I learned some time ago. Evangelism is not taught, it is **caught**. They catch it. And so the Bible says we are to show them the work they are to do. When you cast a vision, and **show** the work that you expect someone to do, you will become a leader, and people will **follow** you in that work.

Every week I encourage my people to share their faith. However when I am preaching a message to the church, I give them an example of where I shared my faith. We need to do the work that we are asking them to do. Show them the work. Let me give you a fifth thing.

E. Moses had to select and train leaders

There is a fifth change that Moses had to make in order to become a leader. He had to select and train leaders. Let me read verse 21. *“Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as feared God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”* (Exodus 18:21 NKJV). And so, if you are going to be a good leader, you will have to **pick** out other men that can be good leaders. And it becomes your duty of **training other leaders**.

There are three qualities in a good leader:

- 1) The Bible says they fear God.

The greatest thing that will help you to stay pure and clean before God is the fear of God. That is a **reverential respect** for a holy God.

- 2) So we need men of **morality**. I know that you have had much teaching on morality.

- 3) But the Bible also teaches we need men of **integrity**.

The Bible says, *“Pick out men of truth.”* And so we need some men that will tell the truth. And we also need men of **honesty**. The Bible says, “Choose out men that hate dishonest gain.” And then you need to give direction to these men.

Now, all of them that you train may become leaders, but some will become better leaders than others. And so, the Bible says, “Place just one leader over ten men.” He said, “Some you can place over fifty. And others you can place over a hundred.” How many of you have as many as one hundred that you are training? OK, so several of you are already training over a hundred. All right, how many of you are already training fifty? Wonderful. How many of you are training ten? OK, very good. Now, listen to this. How many of you are training a thousand? Listen to this wonderful truth from the Word of God. *“Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive stricter judgment.”* (James 3:1 NKJV). God has placed your CBLT leaders in a very strategic position, but he carries with it a very big responsibility to God.

Let me give you one more truth. I am going to make a statement, and it may not sound very important, but it is a very, very important statement. There is a sixth change that Moses made to become a leader.



F. He turned the ministry over to those he trained

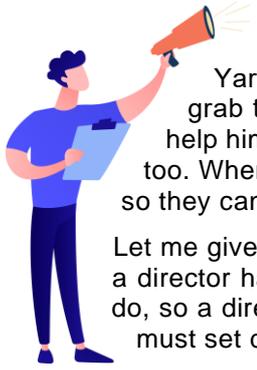
I want to say that again because it is very important. He turned the ministry over to those he *trained*. There is a word that describes what he did. It is the word submission. Sometimes God will give us a ministry, and we will hold on to that ministry like it is our ministry. But if you are going to be a good leader, you must **turn that ministry over to others**.

In the church that I pastor in America, I have over five thousand members. I am giving a lecture so I am not at my church today. My associate pastor is not at our church today. He is here with me. But we have trained other good men and women, and they are at our church today. I have been gone for eight days. I have called my wife every chance I got, but I have not called the church. It is in very good hands. I hope.

Why should we train leaders if we do not turn the **responsibility** over to them? Occasionally, our mission leader Mack Riggs will come to me. He says we have a very big concern in missions. I say, “Go and take care of it.” I trust him with it, because God has called him to be a leader. If he cannot come up with a solution, he will call his assistant Bob Wilson. And he will say, “Bob, you have a problem.” I am simply trying to say, turn the ministry over to the people you train.

I have given you six of the principles; I will give you the last one now. Here is the seventh principle.

G. Become a supervisor



As the main leader in your work, *learn to do **only** what others cannot do.* You are to become the **supervisor**. Let me give an illustration. Last night I was picked up at your airport. Yaroslav picked me up. He introduced me to Igor. He said, "This is my helper." He said, "You grab their luggage." Yaroslav could have grabbed the luggage, but God has sent him people to help him in his ministry. And he let him do the ministry. But, Yaroslav, he helped carry the luggage, too. When a person becomes a leader, they have people that take care of the **details** of their work, so they can be the supervisor over all of the work.

Let me give you another illustration. A New Life Training director cannot do all that must be done. So, a director has an administrator and a team of mentoring coaches. Just as Yaroslav tells Igor what to do, so a director tells his team what to do. That is leadership! Someone must be in charge. Someone must set direction for the organization.

The Bible says, "*Let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So shall it be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.*" (Exodus 18:22 NKJV)

I have come here to teach for a couple of days. I am a leader in this conference, but I am not the major leader in this conference. I did not set the direction of this conference. I do not know how to set the direction of this conference, but your local workshop leader does. So, I may make some minor decisions. I may say, to the workshop leader, should I teach this or this?" He may say, "Teach either one you would like." So, I will make the minor decisions, but he will make all of the major decisions. And there will be many others making decisions as well.

CLOSING:

In closing let us repeat the 7 aspects of becoming a leader:

- Become a man of prayer
- Be committed to communication
- Become a man of vision
- Become a man of planning
- Select and train leaders
- Turn your ministry over to your disciples
- Become a supervisor

Oh how God will bless you when you will follow these steps of Moses!

Blessings to you, our dear friends!

We are happy to present the video, audio and paper materials that have been prepared by New Life for Churches. You have the privilege upon completion of your practical assignment to use this lecture with others.

Practical assignment

Completed

- For each of the 7 principles of becoming a leader write down three ways that you can put them into practice. Focus on a different principle for seven weeks. Bring a brief written report.