

LEADERSHIP STORMS

Model: Moses

Focus: Opposition

Numbers 11:4-34

The story takes place in **Numbers 11**.

- In Egypt the children of Israel were slaves. God was ready to flip the script.
- Moses successfully led God's people out of Egyptian captivity.
- Their God-ordained destiny was a land flowing with milk and honey — Life of freedom and prosperity.
- Instead they endured an extended wilderness journey.

Moses successfully led God's people out of Egyptian captivity. Turns out that was the easy part! The transition from captivity to freedom required a major shift.

- The transition from captivity to freedom required a major shift.
- A cultural shift was essential, but the Mosaic congregation failed to buy in.
- Through the course of this story Moses learned valuable leadership lessons.

POPULARITY HAS A SHELF LIFE

Moses had skills. He had favor. He carried a God-anointing. Heavy anointing. Dude was a world-class leader. Moses had it going on! He was popular ... and then his ratings went down.

- Egyptian Deliverance ... Popularity was way up here! Trapped at Sea ...
- The Red Sea divided ... Popularity was way up here! No water ...
- Water flows from rock ... Way up here! People are hungry ...



Popularity has a shelf life! The Bible says...

4 The rabble ("contemptable people" -HCSB / "riffraff" -MSG) **with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites began wailing and said,**

5 "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost — also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.

6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

Numbers 11:4-6

- In the wilderness, God rained down Manna, literally "bread from heaven."
- Guess what? The people tired of the Manna / Murmuring & complaining.
- The church members were unhappy.

- They were no longer impressed with the parting of the Red Sea;
- they were annoyed because they had to live on manna.

Leadership is not a popularity contest!

- Moses should be revered ... not targeted!
- Folks were mad at him because they tired of the food God provided!
- No matter how well you do your job, some people will complain... and they will gladly TURN UP THE VOLUME.

Moses chose principle over popularity!

THE ONE-MAN SHOW HAS LIMITS

When the rabble began to complain to Moses, Moses had an epiphany ...

"I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me." Vs 14

"I can't do this by myself—it's too much, all these people." MSG

Moses needed a team ... so do we.

- Train people who have leadership potential.
- Determine your core team and invest in them. Disciple them. Equip them.

Great teams have contagious optimism – it starts with the leader.

- Share your optimism, belief and faith with your team.
- Show them the way forward – transfer your belief to them. Feed them positivity. Speak life to them.
- Believe in them when they don't believe in themselves.

Leadership is not just about what *you* do ... but what you can inspire, encourage, and empower *others* to do.

THE LEGACY LEADER HAS TENACITY

Moses became frustrated with the attitude of the people he was leading. So he uttered a very powerful prayer in **verse 15** ...

"Why are you doing this to me? Please kill me right now; it will be a kindness! Let me out of this impossible situation! I've seen enough; I've had enough. Let me out of here." Vs 15 Multiple

I am no stranger to this prayer! It is thick with tension ...

- *"Enough God. I'm trying to lead YOUR people in response to YOUR bush-fire calling and now these people are seriously on my last nerve!*
- *I want out. Show me the escape route!*
- *Kill me if you must because I'D RATHER DIE than lead this congregation!"*

Here's the response he gets from the Almighty:

- ***"Gather together seventy men from among the leaders of Israel, men whom you know to be respected and responsible.*** (Previous point – God is introducing the concept of team)
- ***Take them to the Tent of Meeting.*** (3 things God will do) ***(1) I'll meet you there. (2) I'll come down and speak with you. (3) I'll take some of the Spirit that is on you and place it on them;*** (Strategy – ask for leaders who carry your same spirit – not personality but spirit)
- ***they'll then be able to take some of the load of this people—you won't have to carry the whole thing alone. Vs 16-17 MSG***

My greatest ministerial strength is tenacity.

- I'm not the greatest communicator / can't sing / leadership flaws.
- But if you need someone with tenacity, I'm your guy!
- Tenacity: Stubborn persistence & unwillingness to admit defeat!

I know there are pastors and ministry leaders who are battle weary, frustrated and depleted. Discouragement is at its peak. Some of you have decided...ENOUGH! There's too much disappointment / pain. I QUIT!!!

I understand ... but when you give up, you close the door on God doing something miraculous. If God has called you to a task, be tenacious.

GOD HAS A KNACK FOR DOING THE "IMPOSSIBLE"

When God told Moses that the people of Israel would be eating meat until they were more than satisfied, Moses said...

21 "Here I am among 600,000 men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!'

22 Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"

23 The Lord answered Moses, "Is the Lord's arm too short? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

Moses did what many leaders do when they're stressed out. In his mind, he began making the situation worse than it really was. He said, ***"There's not even enough fish in the whole sea to satisfy them!"***

God's response was simple and straight to the point: ***"My arm isn't short!"*** God is saying, *"When you work for me, the word 'impossible' doesn't exist. There isn't anything I can't do."*

Even Moses had to be reminded that God is ALL-POWERFUL.

- There was the burning bush. The plagues of Egypt. The parting of the Red Sea.
- Still, Moses spews doubt ... not faith!
- We need to learn to forget the meaning of "impossible" — because when God is involved, the word doesn't exist. This is what Jesus said to his disciples...

"With God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

CHALLENGES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED

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