

That the World May Know: With All Your Heart – Session 3: He Lead Them like a Shepherd

God Leads like a Shepherd

Through the Spirit-empowered leadership of Moses, God led his chosen people out of the lush, fertile farms of Egypt and into the vast desert wilderness. Even today, the Sinai Desert is a maze of steep rocky mountains, trackless canyons, and sand-choked valleys. It is a threatening world to those who are unfamiliar with it as the Hebrews were. The Hebrews were afraid they would die in the desert. They were totally dependent on both God's provision of manna, quail, and water, and his faithfulness in leading them through the dangerous and unknown land.

1. After the Hebrews marched out of Egypt, God anticipated and met their need for his guiding, protective presence—in much the same way a shepherd would guide a flock. In each of the following passages what specific examples of shepherd-like care did God provide for his people?
Exodus 13:17 – 22
Exodus 14:19 – 20
Exodus 15:22 – 27
Numbers 9:15 – 23
Deuteronomy 1:26 – 33

Why was it important for the Hebrews to actually see and experience God's leading?

How did the examples above help them to know their God and trust him as their shepherd?

2. Which metaphor for leadership did God use to describe people who led his people on his behalf?
2 Samuel 5:1 – 4

God Chooses Moses

When we think about what qualifies a person for leadership, we might list such things as education, the ability to speak well, training, and so on. Moses had qualifications such as these. Moses had spent forty years being a shepherd in the desert through which God wanted him to lead the Hebrews to their new land. God had groomed Moses for this mission.

1. During his adult years, which people—the Hebrews or the Egyptians—did Moses identify with as his own?
Exodus 2:1 – 10
Hebrews 11:24 – 28

Why did he make that choice?

What does this reveal about Moses' character and the values closest to his heart?

2. What qualifications for success did Moses possess?
Acts 7:20 – 22

What confidence did Moses have in his earthly qualifications? For what purpose did he seek to use them?
Acts 7:223 – 25

When Moses met God at Mount Horeb and God explained what he was asking Moses to do, what doubts immediately surfaced in Moses' mind?
Exodus 3:7 - 11

Lead as I Lead

The exodus story is the story of two kingdoms, each with a distinct leadership style. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's palace learning a brutal type of leadership. Moses needed to learn a gentler style because that is how God typically leads. Learn how well he learned to lead as the Good Shepherd leads.

1. What are the indications that the Egyptian worldview may have become more a part of Moses than he realized?
Exodus 2:11 – 19
Acts 7:23 – 29
2. When God first met Moses at the burning bush and commissioned him to speak to Pharaoh and lead the Hebrews out of Egypt, how did Moses respond?
Exodus 3:1 – 11

Is this the same response you would have expected from Moses before he spent forty years tending sheep in the desert?

What changed?

Why did Moses respond this way?

3. What was the primary way Moses was to lead on God's behalf?
Exodus 3:13 – 20
Exodus 4:1 – 9

Trust is the Lesson of the Desert

God was moving his people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. It was not simply a change in locations. When the Hebrews left Egypt, they could not survive, much less thrive, in the desert. Only after learning that God would protect them would they become his priests and witnesses who would display him to other nations.

1. God says that he took the Hebrews into the desert to humble them, test them, and know what was in their hearts. God's definition of "test" was proving a person's quality by experience.
Deuteronomy 8:2 – 5

What was the desert like?

Numbers 20:4 – 5

Deuteronomy 1:19

Deuteronomy 8:15 – 18

Jeremiah 2:6

2. What hopes did God have for his relationship with his people and what he wanted to accomplish through them?
Exodus 6:7
Exodus 19:6 – 9
Exodus 29:44 -46
Deuteronomy 4:35
Deuteronomy 7:1 - 9

The Shepherd Who Would Come After Moses

Moses, the Egyptian prince turned nomadic shepherd, matured to become a great godly leader. He developed an intimate relationship with God, and patiently, lovingly led the Hebrews as they struggled free from their bondage to Egypt and its ways. Although Moses stands out in biblical history as a leader like no other, he still was sinful and could not remove or pardon the Hebrews' sins, much less the sins of all humankind. God would later send the Messiah—the sinless Shepherd—to give the ultimate sacrifice.

1. While it is accurate to say that Moses was the godly shepherd God chose to lead his people out of Egypt, there is so much more that can be said about this remarkable man. What sets him apart as a great man of God?
Exodus 34:29 – 30
Numbers 12:3 – 8
Deuteronomy 34:10 – 12
Matthew 17:1 – 3
2. Despite all his strengths and accomplishments, Moses remained a human being flawed by sin. In what way did Moses disobey God? What were the consequences?
Numbers 20:1 – 12
Deuteronomy 34:1 – 4

What was it about Moses' actions that was such a great offense against God?

3. What did Moses say about the prophet who would come after him?
Deuteronomy 18:15 – 19

What impact did those words still have on people during Jesus' time?

Luke 7:16

John 1:21 – 25

References

Exodus 1	Exodus 2
Exodus 3	Exodus 4
Exodus 5	Exodus 6
Exodus 7	Exodus 9
Exodus 10	Exodus 12
Exodus 13	Exodus 14
Exodus 15	Exodus 16
Exodus 17	Exodus 19
Exodus 25	Exodus 29
Exodus 32	Exodus 33
Exodus 34	Leviticus 16
Leviticus 26	Numbers 9
Numbers 11	Numbers 12
Numbers 20	Deuteronomy 1
Deuteronomy 4	Deuteronomy 6
Deuteronomy 7	Deuteronomy 8
Deuteronomy 13	Deuteronomy 16
Deuteronomy 32	Deuteronomy 34
2 Samuel 5	Nehemiah 9
Psalms 23	Psalms 37
Psalms 77	Psalms 78
Psalms 100	Isaiah 40
Jeremiah 2	Jeremiah 15
Jeremiah 23	Jeremiah 31
Ezekiel 9	Ezekiel 34
Matthew 2	Matthew 4
Matthew 8	Matthew 13
Matthew 14	Matthew 15
Matthew 16	Matthew 17
Matthew 26	Mark 10
Mark 14	Luke 1
Luke 4	Luke 5
Luke 8	Luke 7
Luke 11	Luke 19
Luke 22	Luke 24
John 1	John 3
John 6	John 7
John 10	John 14
John 17	Acts 7
Acts 13	Romans 5
Romans 10	Hebrews 2
Hebrews 3	Hebrews 11
James 1	1 John 1