

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



March 8, 2015

Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Kernels of Knowledge From our Daily Bible Reading

Moses: An Example of Godly Leadership

Without doubt one of the most significant characters in the history of the people of Israel is Moses. He brought them out of the land of Egypt and slavery, he brought them the law of God, and he led them through the wilderness to the very border of the Promised Land. For 40 years Moses was the visible leader of the people of God. What made Moses into a leader? Was he effective? Can we use his example to teach us how to be effective leaders of God's people? Let's look at Moses' example and see what we can learn.

Even though Moses was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter, his earliest years were spent with his natural mother as she was the one called upon to be his wet nurse. During those years she instilled in the young boy a knowledge of who he was, one of the people of God. The people of God were waiting for God to rescue them from their slavery. God had promised to Abraham that 400 years were all He would let the people stay in the land of Egypt. The time for deliverance was near and it looked like the young man Moses was being positioned in the best possible way to lead the Israelites.

In the years after he was given completely into the care of his Egyptian teachers, Moses never forgot his heritage. He used the opportunity God had given him to learn the best that he could. He became wise in the teaching of Egypt (the most advanced civilization of that day). (Acts 7:22) He became a powerful soldier in one of the world's most powerful armies. By the time he reached the age of forty, there was probably no greater leader in all the land than Moses. Indeed to man, and most likely to Moses, he seemed to be the perfect leader to set the Israelites free (cf. Acts 7:23-25). But God does not see as man sees. Moses decides to take matters into his own hands by joining his people. Almost immediately he finds an excuse to begin the rebellion by killing an Egyptian.

Instead of facing the wrath of Pharaoh, Moses flees from Egypt. The next 40 years Moses spends as a simple shepherd. He leads mild-mannered sheep along mountain trails to find food and drink for them. He probably fought off wild beasts to protect his sheep, and his heart was probably torn with grief when one of his sheep died. A far different man he became than the young self-reliant man who thought he could deliver his people from Egypt with the might of his arms and the eloquence of his speech.

Yet it is exactly this kind of man that God chooses. God does not want a leader who thinks he can stand alone. God needs leaders who know how to provide, protect and show compassion. The humble are useful to God, the proud cannot serve Him well. So when God calls upon Moses to be the leader of His people and deliver them from bondage, Moses protests that he is not fit to lead. Moses was still thinking in human terms. No longer was he the strong young man he had been. He was no longer well known, he had not used his voice for speeches in many years. Moses did not think he could act as a leader.

That is why God chose him. He chose him because he no longer thought of himself as the leader. God wants Moses to rely on Him. God tells Moses to tell the people that He, the great I AM, had sent Moses, and God would deliver the people with His own powerful hand. So eventually Moses agrees to lead the people and when the people hear that God will deliver them, they believe and worship God (Ex. 4:31). Perhaps with this initial success the old feelings of success and conquest came back. However, God does not let him keep those old feelings for long.

Things do not proceed as Moses and the people probably expected. The Pharaoh did not let them go immediately. Instead things got harder for the Israelites. Even Moses was reduced to blaming

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"By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward." **Heb. 11:24,25**

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

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God for the trouble on Israel. (Ex. 5:22-23) A leader of God's people has to be able to accept God as God is, not as man wants Him to be. A leader of God's people must be able to accept adversity without doubting in God or His plans. So during the time of the plagues upon Egypt, Moses is growing in his faith toward God and in his ability to be an effective leader.

After the plagues, while the people were leaving Egypt, Pharaoh and his army approached. Here might have been the great opportunity for the military mind of Moses. Moses, trained as a mighty warrior of Egypt, could he defeat the Egyptian army with his band of slaves? A question never to be answered because Moses had learned a lesson about leading God's people: let God lead. Moses told the people, "*The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.*" (Ex. 14:14) But that faith did not excuse Moses from acting. He simply waited for God to tell him what action He desired, then he did as he was told. Moses had finally become a fit leader of God's people.

Yet leadership always involves problems. Moses quickly faced a series of problems that would test his leadership. First there was the problem of water for all these people. Although Moses had learned to trust in God, the people failed to trust God or respond to Moses' leadership. When the people brought the problem to Moses, he cried out to God. (Ex. 15:25) Moses did not try to solve the people's problems by himself. These were God's people and he knew that God would be able to solve their problems. In like manner Moses let God solve the problems of food and meat. God was the true leader of this people. One who leads God's people must always remember whose people they are and allow God to be the source of answers to problems.

But leadership requires more than a casual commitment. When Moses was up on Mount Sinai, the people committed a very great sin. They turned against God and Moses, and God said to Moses, "*Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.*" (Ex. 32:7) No longer did God claim the people as His own. They were Moses' people and he had brought them out of Egypt. Originally that was exactly what the younger Moses had intended. He was going to be their savior. Now God was offering Moses the chance to be the kind of leader he once wanted to be. Boldly Moses stands before God and intercedes for the children of Israel.

But there are greater challenges facing his leadership. To begin with God has agreed to let Moses take care of the problem of idolatry going on with the children of Israel. Moses must be able to discipline the children of Israel if he is going to lead them on behalf of God.

When Moses finally approached the camp of Israel, his initial reaction was one of uncontrolled anger (Ex. 32:19). Moses breaks the tablets and grinds up the golden calf and makes the people drink of the gold dust mixed with water. Perhaps that would have been the end of the discipline except that some children of Israel were continuing in their idolatry by running around naked (Ex. 32:25). More severe discipline was required for some. This continued rebellion was a test of Moses' leadership. If he failed to get the rebellion under control, then he could never lead this people for they would always be rebelling against him and God. So Moses calls for those who were loyal to God. The rebels, about 3,000 men, were put to death. (Ex. 32:27-28) The rebellion was at an end. But Moses knows that his leadership is still called for. Now he must lead the people back to God and he calls upon them to set a day aside for the Lord. But Moses knows the sin is very great and that sin requires atonement. Moses knows that he may be called upon to make that atonement (Ex. 32:30). So when he stands before God, Moses takes responsibility for his flock and offers his life for them. God does not accept that offer, but he does not allow Moses to forsake his position as leader either. He tells Moses to "*go, lead the people*". (Ex. 32:34)

Again Moses had passed a challenge to his leadership. He was able to discipline the rebellious people, quash the resistance of the more stubborn rebels, bring the people back to God, and be accepted by God as still a fit leader for His people. However, his success led to more challenges to his leadership.

Being chosen by God as the leader and then reaffirmed in that leadership position caused some other potential leaders to be jealous. The first attempt to take over, or at least share, the leadership came from Moses' own family. Miriam and Aaron protested to Moses that they were at least as capable as he was as a leader. After all God spoke to them, as well as to Moses, they said. (Num. 12:2) Moses did not make a rebuttal, perhaps as is stated, it was because Moses was such a meek man (Num. 12:3). Again consider how much has changed in Moses life. Where is the bold and arrogant young Moses who killed the Egyptian? Moses has learned his lessons about leadership. The battles belong to God, so Moses steps aside and lets God do battle. The Lord wastes no time in putting Miriam and Aaron back into their places (Num. 12:5-12). Once again Moses is called upon, this time by Aaron, to personally intercede with God.

The next challenge to his leadership came in the form of a full-fledged attempt to permanently remove Moses from leadership. The people rose up to stone him to death, along with Caleb and Joshua and Aaron (Num. 14:10). Once again it is notable that Moses intercedes for the people who sought to kill him (Num.

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Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

Mar. 8 Numbers 31-32

Mar. 9 Numbers 33-34

Mar. 10 Numbers 35-36

Mar. 11 Deuteronomy 1-2

Mar. 12 Deuteronomy 3-4

Mar. 13 Deuteronomy 5-7

Mar. 14 Deuteronomy 8-10

Mar. 15 Deuteronomy 11-13

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



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14:13-20). But still Moses must accept that the people under his care are to be punished. Moses has to bear with the people in the consequences of their sin, for again he must lead the people back to God and prepare the next generation for entering the Promised Land.

One last attempt is made to displace Moses as leader. This challenge came from the leaders of the assembly. 250 men led by Korah of Moses own tribe of Levi (Num. 16:1-2). These men protested that Moses and Aaron had made themselves too important, that Moses had failed to bring them to the Promised Land, and that the priesthood should not belong exclusively to Moses and Aaron. Again Moses faces the battle by saying that the Lord would choose (Num. 16:5). And again Moses was rewarded by God doing battle on his behalf (Num. 16:28-35), and also again Moses is called upon to intercede for the rebellious flock he leads.

The final challenge to Moses' leadership was one that he did not overcome. For the final challenge that faces all leaders is one that comes from within — pride. Moses had struggled and succeeded in letting God do battle with the obvious rebellions and challenges. Moses had stood up for the people time and again sparing their lives even while they sought to kill him. But deep down inside Moses was still the Egyptian trained leader of men. The constant complaints were wearisome. Finally, while the people yet again complained about needing water, Moses slipped. In the heat of his frustration Moses complained that he must again bring forth water for them (Num. 20:10). Moses had said HE was bringing forth water. It was not Moses who brought the water; it was God. Moses had failed to give God the glory due to Him. God immediately notified Moses that he would be punished for his sin (Num. 20:12).

So what lessons can we learn from Moses example of leadership? We learn first that a leader may need to be educated in the ways of the world. God's people live and work and move in the world. Knowledge of how the world works is a helpful tool. But the leader must always remember that his training is only a tool. More important than an earthly education are humility and service, like what Moses learned as a shepherd. Then God's leader must be able to balance the two parts of his training, leading the people of God with wisdom and humility. Also the leader must be willing to sacrifice of himself and to intercede on behalf of God's people, even when the people are unkind toward, or rebelling against, the leader. Finally, the leader must be able to step aside and let God fight the battles, and then he must give God the glory. For it is only in God that the battles can be won. Moses, as a leader of God's people, was a man who performed great deeds in the strength that only God can provide.

Adapted from an article by *Glenn E. Hamilton* (battlecreekcoc.org)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

March Birthdays: Ken Maninger (4), Aila Stewart (5), John Greer (7), **Wayne Kahlich (9), Daphne Escamilla (12), Brian Leftwich (14)**, Susan Ford (17), Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28), Ethel Adams (29).

March Anniversaries: James & Cindy Fuller (2), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).



Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...

Records

	Feb. 22, 2015	Mar. 1, 2015
Bible Class	36	42
AM Worship	49	52
PM Worship	31	36
Wednesday PM	39	22
Contribution	\$1,797	\$1,590

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

This Week: 3/8/15		Next Week: 3/15/15		March 2015 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: James Fuller April 2015 Make Announcements: Gene Bannister Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: Cindy Fuller & Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
Greeters	James & Cindy Fuller	Dennis Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Gene Bannister*, Hank Wheeler John Barnum, Allen Griffith	James Fuller*, Tom Wilcox James Thomas, Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Billy Chism	Ken Maninger		
Attendance Cards	Jaceton Evetts, Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis, Jaceton Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Allen Griffith		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 11 Allen Griffith	March 18 Tom Wilcox	March 25 Don Smith	April 1 Gospel Meeting

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of March 8, 2015	Sunday Class Acts 3:1ff
	Wednesday Class Ezekiel 1:1ff

Christianity and the World's Religions

Many people today believe all religions originated with God, and we are free to choose the one that suits us best.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn. 14:6).

I. The church is a part of God's eternal plan.

A. From before the creation of the universe, God had already planned to establish the church.

B. The Bible is God's book telling us of His will.

C. Both Paul and Peter spoke of God's plan.

D. To consider the church is to look to plans laid in eternity.

II. We must avoid religions originating with man.

A. Jesus promised to build His one church - a part of God's eternal plan.

1. The plan was always to establish one church, and all believers were to be part of that one church.

2. The Bible emphasizes unity, not division (Jn. 17:20-22).

B. God promised Abraham He would bless all families of the earth through his seed (Gen. 12:1-3).

C. Other religions that exist in the world did not come from God.

III. We have the power to choose our own path.

A. God does not force people to obey His will - He allows us to choose.

B. This explains why there are so many different religions in the world.

Application:

1. We must believe the Bible's message.

2. If we embrace another religion - we embrace their texts and their teachings.

3. When a church or denomination deviates from the Bible - they are in error.

The religion of Christ is far superior to any other religion in the world.

It offers forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13).

It is open to all people (Rev. 22:17).

God's plan of salvation is easy to understand and follow (Acts 17).

The only hope this world has is through Christ (Eph. 2:12; 2 Tim. 2:10).

John - Introduction

I. The Gospels - 92% of John's material is unique.

II. Author - the apostle John - "the disciple whom Jesus loved".

III. Place of Writing - not identified - possibly Ephesus.

IV. Date of Writing - latter part of the 1st century - around 90 A.D.

V. Recipients - Unbelieving Jews? Hellenistic Jews? Christians?

VI. Purpose - stated in 20:30,31.

VII. Key Words: Sign (15X), Faith/Belief (99X), Life (55X), Witness (45X), Kosmos [world] (77X), Light (23X), Glory (40X), Love (43X), Truth (55X), Know (56X).

Prologue: The Incarnate Word - 1:1-18

John 1:1-5

1. Notice the similarity to the first verse of the Bible - "In the beginning...".

"Was" - at the beginning, the Logos was already in existence - eternal.

"Word" - Logos. To the Greek mind this meant "reason" or "thought."

"God" - does not mean "a God" but describes a quality of divinity. In other words, the Logos was Divine.

2. "He [the same - KJV, ASV]" refers to the Logos.

"Was" - existed.

3. "Things" include the natural and the supernatural.

Through God's wisdom all things came into being (Col. 1:16).

"Him" could be translated "it" - John has not yet indicated this was a man.

4. The Logos is "life" (zoe) and thus "light" (phos).

Life (zoe), one of the key words in the gospel of John.

Jesus did not just have life - he was/is life.

"Light" to the Greeks was knowledge.

John says that men receive life and light from the Logos.

5. "Shines" (phainei) - present indicative active - is still shining.

"Darkness" = ignorance, sin, backwardness - preferred by the world.

"Overcome [comprehend]" - Greek word has two possible meanings: (1) Understand, or (2) Overpower, take or seize, conquer.