

March 14, 2021

Kingdom of Heaven: Kingdom Leadership

Leadership is essential to move a group forward in order to establish a desired outcome. From Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Deborah, Gideon, King David, Ezra, Queen Esther, Mordechai, Nehemiah, Zerubbabel and the Prophets to John the Baptist, Jesus, the Apostles Paul John Luke Peter James and the others, God has always worked through His chosen Leaders. God chose to partner with man to advance and build His Kingdom on Earth. **We are all Leaders** in the Kingdom of God, but we have different responsibilities.

READ: What is a Kingdom Builder? From our prayer booklet.

It was through the power of God that Israel came out of bondage in Egypt, but **God partnered with Moses** to release His power into this physical realm. 6 weeks after leaving Egypt in route to the Promised Land, challenges arose.

The Children of Israel were **complaining against Moses and Aaron** because they were hungry and they remembered how it use to be in Egypt when they had pots of meat and bread to eat. They said they would have been better off to die in Egypt then to starve in the wilderness. Moses warns them their complaints are not against him and Aaron, but against the Lord (**Ex 16:1-35**)

Kingdom Leadership: If God told a leader to do something, and we speak against it, we could be speaking against God. We do stand up against corrupt leadership, like Elisha did against King Ahab, but we must be very cautious. When God's leaders get criticized, they don't take it personal because they are more concerned about the people who don't understand what they are doing.

After the people complain, God gives Israel manna from Heaven and institutes the Sabbath. God uses the manna to test Israel to see if they will be obedient. He tells them to gather twice as much on the sixth day, and rest on the seventh day. Israel failed the test.

Ex 16:4-5 *Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, **that I may test them**, whether they will **walk in My law or not**. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."*

Kingdom Leadership: Moses kept his heart right, and the Lord tested the hearts of the people.

The congregation of the children of Israel left the Wilderness of Sin and camped at Rephidim, and the people **contended** with Moses again because there was no water. **In Ex 17:2** Moses said to them *"Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?"* **Ex 17:4** *So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to **stone me!**"*

God tells Moses to go up ahead with some Elders and strike the rock with the rod. God reminds Moses this is the same rod that he struck the river in Egypt and it turned to blood.

Kingdom Leadership: When things look rough and we cry out to God, gather together with your Leadership Team, and remember the miracles God has done for us and through us. Then expect God to do another miracle!

While Israel was still in Rephidim, the Amalekites came to fight with them.

Ex 17:8-16 *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9 And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the **rod of God in my hand**." 10 So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And **Aaron and Hur** supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

Kingdom Leadership Personal Reflection: As a leader when I am exhausted, I thank God there are leaders (in LSC and outside LSC) that come and support me, believe in me, and tell me to keep going. Moses needed help to obtain the victory, just like Lead Pastors need help.

*13 So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." 15 And Moses built an altar and called its name, **The-Lord-Is-My-Banner**;*

Jehovah-Nissi: "The Lord is My Banner" also meaning The Lord Our Victory.

Kingdom Leadership: We have confidence entering into battle knowing we have victory in Jesus Christ. God could have sent angels to wipe out the Amalekites, but He didn't; Israel had to enter the battle and so do we.

Crossing Over into the Promised Land was conditional; it was based on Leadership. One Leader from each of the 12 Tribes of Israel was chosen and sent to spy out Canaan, the Promised Land. When they returned, they confirmed the land flowed with milk, honey and beautiful fruit, but the cities were fortified and the descendants of Anak, the giants lived there (**Nu 13:1-33**).

Num 13:30-33 *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 **There we saw the giants** (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."*

Num 14:1-12 *So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel **complained against Moses and Aaron**, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "**Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.**" 5 Then Moses and Aaron **fell on their faces** before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.*

Kingdom Leadership: This is yet another example of the humility and compassion of Moses and Aaron. Even though people no longer want to follow us as a Leader, we must not harden our hearts towards them, and cry out to the Lord on their behalf so they may see the truth.

*6 **But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh**, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 Only **do not rebel against the Lord**, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. **Do not fear them.**"*

*10 And all the congregation said to **stone them with stones**. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."*

Moses pleaded with God not to destroy the nation of Israel.

Num 14:26-34 *And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. 28 Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, '**just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you...***

Matt 9:29-30 *Then He touched their eyes, saying, "**According to your faith let it be to you.**"*

Our words are very powerful. Are we critical and complaining against what God is doing? Our words will affect our children. Even though God let all of the children under 20 years old to live, they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 more years.

Once the people realized what they had done, they regretted their decision not to fight, and went up to fight on their own, but Moses and the Ark of the Covenant did not go with them. Moses warned them not to go, but they would not listen, and they were defeated. Even though they admitted their sin, they were accountable for their actions (**Nu 14:39-45**).

Today we can repent and be forgiven, but disobedience to God and His Word has consequences. If we commit adultery, and ask God to forgive us, He will but our actions may have destroyed our marriage and family. If we steal a car and get caught and ask God to forgive us, He will but most likely you will go to jail. Even though we have to endure the consequences of our disobedience, Jesus will always be there for us.

Kingdom Leadership: Out of 12 Leaders sent to spy out the Promised Land, only Joshua and Caleb focused **not** on their own might, but God and His Promise to inherit the land. As we lead ourself, our family, our church, our community and this region, what is our report from spying out the Promised Land, the Kingdom of God manifesting on this earth? The Bible says the Kingdom of Jesus Christ will manifest on this earth through a great end-of-age battle.

Rev 12:10-12 *Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the **kingdom of our God**, and the power of His Christ **have come**, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

The full manifestation of the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth will not take place until Jesus returns to complete the Final Battle with His Saints and Heaven's army, but how this transition occurs, no one knows for sure.

This battle is intensifying; how are you leading others?