

## Moses – Shadow of Jesus in Spiritual Leadership

Moses who lived 1500 years before Christ in his prophetic utterance declared that *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;* Deuteronomy 18:15. Now Stephen standing in the council accused by the false testimonies, “*For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us*”, Acts 6:14. Stephen quoting the prophetic words of Moses in Acts 7:37 *This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.* It is not just our own imagination to say that “Moses a type of Jesus”, it is an amazing truth from the above scriptures where Moses comparing himself with Christ Jesus. According to Hebrews 3:5, Moses' faithfulness was a testimony to greater things that were yet to come in Christ. He was only a servant who pointed to something that would come later. Hebrews 10:1 says, “*For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*” The law was the shadow of good things yet to come in Christ.

There are many similarities between Moses and Jesus right from their birth till their death. “Moses-A Type of Christ” published by Providence Baptist Ministries, Granbury, Texas [1] deals with 75 similarities of Christ Jesus with Moses. Apart from these similarities, their leadership roles are compared by a medical surgeon and experimental psychologist Jerome Dominguez in his Bible Commentary [2]. Jerome in the section “Jesus Christ and His Church in the Book of Exodus” looks at Jesus and Moses in various leadership roles.

### God's servant

Moses: Psalm 105:26 *He sent Moses his **servant**; and Aaron whom he had chosen.*

Jesus: Matthew 12: 17-18 *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying. Behold my **servant**, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.*

### Prophet

Moses: Deuteronomy 18:18 *I will raise them up a **Prophet** from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*

Jesus: Luke 7:16 *And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great **prophet** is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.*

### Priest

Moses: Psalm 99:6 *Moses and Aaron among his **priests**, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.*

Jesus: Hebrews 7:24 *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable **priesthood**, Hebrews 5:10 called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

**King**

Moses: Deuteronomy 33:4-5 *Moses commanded us a law, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob. And he was **king** in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people and the tribes of Israel were gathered together.*

Jesus: Acts 17:7 *Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another **king**, one Jesus.*

**Shepherd**

Moses: Exodus 3:1 *Now Moses **kept the flock** of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.*

Jesus: John 10:11 *I am the good shepherd: the good **shepherd** giveth his life for the sheep.*

**Mediator**

Moses: Exodus 33:8-9 *And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and **stood at the door** of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.*

Jesus: 1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one **mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

**Intercessor**

Moses: Numbers 21:7 *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And **Moses prayed for the people.***

Jesus: Romans 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh **intercession** for us.*

**Judge**

Moses: Exodus 18:13 *And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to **judge** the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.*

Jesus: John 5:27 *And hath given him authority to execute **judgment** also, because he is the Son of man.*

The challenge Christian leaders are facing today is not lack of leadership skills or lack of formal management education or lack of support from congregation or lack of infrastructure or lack of government approvals and sanctions or lack of physical health and mental ability or opposition or competition or threats. It is all about how to be an effective spiritual leader rather than just being a leader. Today the church is looking for leaders, who are not politically motivated, not business oriented and not struggling for popularity. Church is looking for leaders who can stand in between the cross and the hell, who can redeem the people who are under bondage of sin and evil, who can feed the flocks with spiritual manna, and who fulfill the divine purpose of preparing the church for the coming of the Lord. This article is a reflection of spiritual leadership qualities

seen in the life of Moses and Jesus, where the former is the shadow of the later. To stress upon the necessity of such qualities, the commonalities among both these Old and New Testament personalities are studied with Biblical reference. It is certain that the application of these vital elements will prepare us for the high calling of leading our generation to meet our Lord Jesus who is coming with the clouds. According to John Maxwell “It's not enough to finish the race yourself. To be successful, you must take somebody with you across the finish line”.

There are many similarities between Moses and Jesus that evidence the high calling of these Biblical personalities for a divine purpose. Few of them are,

Moses escaped Pharaoh's plot to kill all Hebrew boys

Christ escaped Herod's plot to kill all Hebrew children

Moses was commissioned to deliver the Israel from bondage

Jesus was commissioned to seek and to save that which was lost

Moses knew the Lord face to face

Christ was the only-begotten son, who is in the bosom of the Father

Moses performed at least 32 miracles

Jesus performed at least 46 miracles [3]

Moses and his experience in Mount Sinai

Jesus and his experience in Mount of Transfiguration

There are few outstanding similarities between Moses and Jesus in terms of their spiritual leadership that form the framework of this article.

## Power of Humility

### **Moses:**

Moses was born into an adverse situation. He was raised in the Egyptian court. He received the best education and according to tradition became a great military leader and was in line to become the next Pharaoh. Then something happened that changed the course of his life. The Scriptures say that he began to think about his people. He went out and saw his brethren and their burdens. As he saw an Egyptian smiting a Hebrew, he looked this way and that way and slew the Egyptian as no one was there and hid him in the sand. Moses knew that he has been called to deliver his people. But the pride, the result of his exposure and experience to the Egyptian royal lifestyle didn't allow Moses to find out God's way of liberating his people. He did it on his own way. The result is the forty years of exile in the wilderness. The sudden shift from a mighty prince to a lowly shepherd in the wilderness would have broken his spirit. It was God's method of teaching humility to Moses. It took forty years for Moses to unlearn everything that he learned in Pharaoh's court and learn humility and humbleness. It took forty years for Moses to displace self and enthrone God. God was continuously working on Moses to bring down his pride as that was the main reason for Satan's fall and even man's fall too.

Now Moses has become a fearful, broken and obedient man. God encounters Moses in the burning bush and calls him to be a liberator of the people of Israel. Once a mighty man in Pharaoh's army now trembles in the presence of the Lord. With great humility now he responds to God's calling in Exodus 3:11 *And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?* This has become the right moment for the Lord to use Moses. When his pride made him to lose his strength and confidence, humility has become his strength. God used him in a mighty way to deliver His people from Egypt. That humility he gained when he lost his pride and learned from the wilderness continued to work within Moses that even Bible describes in Numbers 12:3 *Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.*

### **Jesus:**

On the other hand, Jesus demonstrating humility in every aspect of His life, teaching and preaching humility and challenging every one to follow his model. Even at His birth He chose to be born in a manger. At the commencement of His ministry during the sermon on the Mount, He spoke in Matthew 5: 3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven* and in Matthew 5: 5 *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.* When the disciples were disputing who would be the greatest in the kingdom, and had agreed to ask the Master, Jesus took a little child in Matthew 18:3 *And said, Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.* When the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus asking Him for her sons to sit on His right and left hand in His kingdom, Jesus replied in Matthew 20:26 *whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.* Jesus made it very clear that humiliation is the only ladder to honor in God's kingdom. Even at the holy supper table, the disciples were still disputing who should be greatest. Jesus answered them in Luke 22:26 *But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.*

Not only His teachings, He lived a life that even today challenges the spiritual leadership of Christianity. Jesus says in Matthew 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* In two different occasions Jesus declared with boldness that He doesn't expect any glory from men. In John 5:41: *I receive not honor from men.* and in John 8:50: *And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.* Jesus was teaching His disciples by doing it Himself in John 13:14: *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.*

Later when Paul writes to the church in Philippi, he testifies that how Jesus humbled Himself to the cross and as a result He was highly exalted by God. Philippians 2:8-10 *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.*

**Reflection:**

[4] Servant leadership is an approach to leadership development, coined and defined by Robert Greenleaf and advanced by several authors such as Stephen Covey, Peter Block, Peter Senge, Max De Pree, Margaret Wheatley, Ken Blanchard, and others. Servant-leadership emphasizes the leader's role as a steward of the resources (human, financial and otherwise) provided by the organization. It encourages leaders to serve others while staying focused on achieving results in line with the organization's values and integrity. Robert Greenleaf published his essay, "The Servant as Leader" in 1970. However, the concept is thousands of years older than this. Chanakya or Kautilya, the famous strategic thinker from ancient India, wrote about servant leadership in his 4th century book Arthashastra. He clearly stated that "the king [leader] shall consider as good, not what pleases himself but what pleases his subjects [followers]". He argued that "the king [leader] is a paid servant and enjoys the resources of the state together with the people". The concept of servant leadership in the west can be traced back, at least partly, to Jesus' teachings on leadership. He sought to teach his disciples that in order to be first they must "wash each other's feet" (Jn. 13:14). Jesus preached that people must seek to serve each other in order to be true leaders. And again, Jesus said that "many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first" (Matt. 19:30) meaning that true leadership, according to Jesus, was leadership based in servant hood.

[5] According to Jim Collins, humility is a key ingredient of Level 5 leadership. Level 5 Executive on top of the organizational hierarchy builds enduring greatness through a paradoxical combination of personal humility plus professional will. Such a leader blends genuine personal humility with intense professional will.

The power of humility is the ultimate solution for most of the leadership failures in church today. Most of the time, lack of humility results in dictatorship in decision-making, reacting to sarcasm, suspicion, gossip, mockery, threats, anonymous notes, open letters, false accusations, expecting special treatment for the hard work, refusing to sacrifice for the good of people and being maverick at times.

A spiritual leader should know how to tap this power of humility. Being a servant leader is the easiest way to gain access to this power. A servant leader never brags himself as he knows that God gives grace to the humble according to James 4:6 *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

A servant leader does everything through Christ. The degree of abiding in Christ defines the humility level one has. God makes everything possible through these leaders as John 15:5 says *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* The challenge for the spiritual leaders today is to be humble enough and in the same time overcome all the obstacles with courage and boldness in order to take everyone under the leadership to the finish line. It is certain that a servant leader will achieve that as he knows and experiences the power of humility.

It is appropriate now to look at what Watchman Nee says in his book "The Character of God's Workman" [6]. Humbling oneself is a must, but to harbor in one's heart the notion

that his very coming among men is itself a humble act is totally unacceptable. If you should have a feeling of condescension when among people of less intelligence or of lower economic or social standing, your humility will not be natural but artificial. From the human view point, while our Lord was on earth He was seen to be a son of Mary; His brothers were James, Joses, Simon and Judas; and they and his sisters lived among the people. He was known as the son of man. You too, must be known simply as a human being. When you go into the midst of people, do not display among them an air of superiority. If so, your attitude is totally wrong. A Christian should never do this. We may serve only as “man” to “men”. We must never give people a reason to sense that we are trying to condescend ourselves as if we are an altogether different and higher kind of creature. If we do create such a sense in them about ourselves, we are disqualified to be servants of God. In order to serve the Lord, we must truly humble ourselves to the lowest place. In talking with people who are less intelligent or lower on the economic or social scale, we will not be their fellowmen if we position ourselves on a different level than they are and give people a different impression. Unless we humble ourselves to the lowest point, we cannot serve God. We must be so humble that we never harbor any superiority consciousness.

## Communion with God

### **Moses:**

What a mighty man of God is he as Bible testifies that no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, Deuteronomy 34:10. Moses encountered God in the burning bush. The angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in Exodus 3:2 *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

He listened to the voice of the Lord calling him by name in Exodus 3:4 *And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.* Since then, having communion with God has been a routine in the life of Moses. Whenever there is a crisis in his leadership, Moses runs into the presence of the Lord to seek divine counsel. Exodus 5:22 *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, LORD, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?* Exodus 15:24 and 25 *And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them.*

Moses had identified a special place to establish his relationship with God. He took himself away from the crowd to a lonely place where the human diminished and the divine overwhelmed. Exodus 19:3 *And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.* It is interesting to note that God Himself preferred this place as He is too holy to reveal himself among the men of sinful nature.

God calls Moses to the top of the mountain in Exodus 19:20 *And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of*

*the mount; and Moses went up. In Exodus 24:12 And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. God gave Moses many instructions required for his leadership including Ten Commandments. The presence of the Lord was so strong and enriching that Moses forgot the people he lead thus far and even food and drink. Exodus 24:18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.*

**Jesus:**

Jesus preferred to go to mountain to communicate with His heavenly father. Even Jesus required advice from His heavenly father before taking any major steps in His ministry. In Luke 6:12 *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.* This was prior to selecting the twelve disciples for His ministry. Bible accounts for several such occasions where Jesus went to the mountain to pray. In Luke 9:28 *And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.* In Luke 21:37 *And in the day time he was teaching in the temple; and at night he went out, and abode in the mount that is called the mount of Olives.* In Luke 22:39 *And he came out, and went, as he was wont, to the mount of Olives; and his disciples also followed him.* In John 8:1 *Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.*

Jesus also preferred certain lonely places to commune with God. In Mark 1:35 *And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.* In Luke 5:16 *And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.* In Luke 9:18 *And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am?*

No one can forget what happened in Gethsemane before the Lord was crucified. It was neither preaching nor performing miracles, but to commune with the heavenly father to understand His will and to surrender completely. We can see that in Mark 14:32 *And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.*

**Reflection:**

The above instances clearly tell us the importance of communing with God. If it was so important for Moses and Jesus, how much more it is necessary for the spiritual leaders as they are called for the same cause.

Moses, a great spiritual leader liberating his people from bondage had to depend on God for every move in his life. It is true that he was called by God in a special way and talked to God face to face. But the past experience did not absolve him from getting instructions from God to handle day to day issues under his leadership. On the other hand Jesus, being one and the same as His father and Holy Spirit did not absolve Him from praying hours together before taking major decisions in His ministry. How much

more today's spiritual leaders need instructions from above to effectively perform their tasks within the limited time available in this world?

Today people are tired of hearing articulate sermons every week. They need instruction on how to go about. The situation is so complicated that human knowledge cannot find a solution. A divine intervention is required. The very little hope one had is completely drained out. A voice of assurance is required from above. The entire scene is in control of demons. A word from the Master is required for the demons to flee. People heard of Jesus many times and still think He is one among many Gods. A miracle is required to trigger their faith towards salvation. Christians who believe in Jesus continue to live in sinful life. Nathan, Jeremiah and John the Baptist are required to point out the sinful life and to warn about the wrath of God. God is looking for someone who can be sent. There is no doubt that for the very same reason God has called us as spiritual leaders. He will make us accountable when He sits on the judgment throne. The demand is so high and so deep that unless leaders draw away from the routine and comforts of life to commune with God to understand His will in every aspect and deliver the divine solution, there will be no follower under the leadership.

## Interceding for transgressors

### **Moses:**

Moses understood His calling was not only to liberate the people of Israel, but also to stand in the gap before the Lord so that He may not destroy the people. He listened to the voice of the Lord in Ezekiel 22:30 *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.* People trusted Moses as he protected them from the wrath of the Lord. We see that in Numbers 21:7 *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.* One of Moses' regular duties was to stand before the throne of the Lord asking for His mercy among people. We see that in Numbers 27:5 *And Moses brought their cause before the LORD.* Moses had such a great compassion for the people even he went to the extent of asking the Lord to remove his name from the book of life. We see that in Exodus 32:31 and 32 *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

Here we see an amazing display of Moses' leadership. When people sinned against the Lord, instead of investigating it further with his skills to identify and punish those involved, Moses was carried away with a holy grief and holy compassion. We see that in Deuteronomy 9:18 *And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger and in Deuteronomy 9:25 Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.*

**Jesus:**

In the New Testament we see the demonstration of love and compassion in the life of Jesus. His love was so abundant that even He was interceding for those who pierced Him. In Luke 23:34 *Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.* Even today Christ Jesus is interceding on every matter concerning us that we may not lose the grace of God. Romans 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.* The author of Hebrews writes that Jesus had a groaning spirit when He was in the flesh that He could pray for himself and intercede for others. Hebrews 5:7 *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.* Once Jesus ascended into heavens, according to Paul, the Spirit of God continues to intercede for us as he writes in Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.* Even today, His love is the most powerful weapon that changes lives. His love not only changes lives and prepares them for heaven; it also redeems people who are appointed for hell. His love penetrates beyond the walls of prison and changes lives for His name sake. His love penetrates through the television programs into the lives in the clubs and pubs.

**Reflection:**

Recently I read one incident in the website of Dr. John C. Maxwell's global mission ministry "EQUIP" [7] that testifies how interceding prayer works.

On April 14, 1988, I (Doug Carter) was aboard Piedmont Airlines Flight 486 from Charlotte, North Carolina, bound for Columbus, Ohio. When the captain announced at 31,000 feet that he expected a smooth flight to Columbus, I glanced outside and observed the beauty of a warm spring day. There was not a cloud in sight. The West Virginia mountains were carpeted in a gorgeous green that seemed to stretch forever.

Suddenly a loud explosion shattered the peace and tranquility. It destroyed one engine of our Fokker F28 jet and ripped a huge hole in the aircraft near the galley. We lost cabin pressure instantly. In a few seconds we plunged to 10,000 feet and continued a rapid fall. Now the West Virginia mountains loomed as angry jaws of death ready to swallow us. Fear seized everyone. Death seemed certain.

The captain's voice brought little assurance when he announced that he would attempt an emergency landing in Charleston, West Virginia. His request for prayer was hardly necessary. We were all praying, including many who likely had not prayed for years. One man behind me mixed his pleas to God for mercy with regular outbursts of profanity.

To our amazement, the landing was quite smooth. Looking at all the broken hydraulic lines dangling in the gaping hole, I marveled that the pilot could control the badly damaged aircraft during the delicate landing maneuvers. As soon as the plane touched the ground, several passengers fainted. The pressure of the ordeal was simply more than they could handle.

Several days after this emergency situation, I received a letter from an elderly lady in Alabama. She had regularly prayed for Winnie and me during our years in Arizona, but

we had lived in Ohio for eight years. Our contact with this dear lady had been infrequent. She wrote,

*I'm getting old, and my hands shake. I do hope you can read my scribble. I just want you to know that I prayed especially for you on April 14. I was working in my flower garden when God burdened my heart with an overwhelming sense of urgency to pray for your safety. I hurried to my bedroom and fell on my knees before the Lord. The only words I could utter were these: "Oh, God, Doug Carter is in trouble. Please stretch forth Your mighty hand, place it beneath him, and keep him safe, wherever he may be today." It was at 10:00 in the morning when I was interceding for you.*

That was the exact time of the explosion. Would God have preserved my life if she had failed to pray? I can't be certain, but I believe this was one of those moments when God acted in response to the prayers of one of His children.

Interceding is more powerful than any other weapon. It is one of the items in the daily agenda of any spiritual leader. As written in Ezekiel 22:30, God Almighty is looking for someone who can stand in the gap. God is concerned about the sick, the poor, the perishing, the orphans, the widows, the victims of famine and disaster, the prisoners, the drug addicts, the erotic dancers, the terrorists and the suicide bombers. The bitterness and the cruelty these precious people are experiencing in their lives were experienced by Jesus on the cross during the three hours when He was separated from the Father. More than the physical agony, the agony of the terrible experiences of these 6.5 billion people in this world was upon Him until He said "it is finished", the unpaid bill was paid. As He completed His work, He has nothing else to do for mankind. He cannot even do anything by sending His holy angels. According to Genesis 1, God gave everything in this earth to men and asked him to rule over. Unless God Almighty finds someone standing at the gap, it is impossible for Him to reach out and help mankind. Once God Almighty sees someone standing at the gap, it reminds Him the experience His son had gone through on the cross. There happens a supernatural breakthrough. This is the secret of interceding. Moses did that, Old Testament prophets, priests and kings did that. Today God has called the leaders to do the same. Paul writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1-2: *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

## Consuming zeal for the Lord

### **Moses:**

Moses had a consuming zeal for the Lord. It was such a great passion within Him that made him to refuse the royal inheritance. It was a burning desire to do something for the Lord that made him to deny the pleasures of the world. The crown of all these is that Moses did not desire for a normal Christian life, rather He chose to share sufferings for His name sake. His faith was so profound that even he could foresee what God almighty had kept for Him. The author of Hebrews witnesses such a great faith in Hebrews 11:24 and 25 *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. When Moses was leading the people of Israel,*

there were so many instances that he couldn't tolerate as he was more zealous about the holiness of God. One such instance is evidenced in Exodus 32: 19-20 where his holy anger erupted as a result of the zeal he had for the Lord. *And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.*

### **Jesus:**

A similar situation is recorded in Gospel according to Mark. When Jesus entered into the temple, seeing the situation there, the zeal for the house of the Lord erupted within Him. Mark 11:15-17 *And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.* The disciples were astonished seeing these and remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me" in Psalm 69:9. Bible accounts for another occasion when the holy anger erupted within Christ. Here is a man with withered hand, standing in the midst of people with accusing spirit, expecting for a miracle. *Jesus looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other,* Mark 3:5.

### **Reflection:**

In Romans 12:11 Paul commands us not to be slothful in zeal and to be fervent in spirit. A leader being slothful in ministry is not acceptable. Leader's passion for the great cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ should always increase. When I think about zeal, I can't avoid mentioning Pastor Richard Wurmbrand [8]. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand is an evangelical minister who spent fourteen years in communist imprisonment and torture in his homeland of Romania. He is one of Romania's most widely known Jewish Believer leaders, authors, and educators. In 1945 he began an effective "underground" ministry to his enslaved people and the invading Russian soldiers. He was eventually arrested in 1948. Richard spent three years in solitary confinement, seeing no one but his communist torturers. His wife, Sabina, also Jewish, was a slave laborer for three years. The Nazi's murdered her parents, 4 siblings, and 5 adopted children, yet she never became bitter or resentful, but continued to show love to all. Sabina never relented in her endeavors to continue the work her husband had begun, to unite the Underground Church. Living in daily fear of discovery, her faith was tested to the limit and held firm to her love of the God of Israel. Pastor Wurmbrand was released in a general amnesty in 1964. In May 1966, he testified in Washington before the Senate's Internal Security Subcommittee and stripped to the waist to show eighteen deep torture wounds covering his body.

The spirit of God is in deep search of such leaders today who can stand for Him with a great zeal even unto death for the sake of Gospel.

## Tireless dedication to the cause

There are amazing similarities between Moses and Jesus in the way they were commissioned, walked through the difficulties, handled the opposition and reached the finish line.

### **Moses:**

#### Commission from God

Moses was commissioned for the mission in Exodus 3:10 *Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.*

#### Early knowledge of the mission

Moses had such a great vision about his calling even before God commissioned him. The author of Acts of Apostles describes this in Acts 7:24-25 *And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.*

#### Rejection by his brethren

It was a shocking instance for Moses as he never expected his brethren to react in such a manner and this made him to flee from Egypt. Exodus 2:11-14 *And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said to him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow? And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known*

#### Sorrowful

Moses as a true leader ought to carry the burden of all the people under his leadership. Numbers 11:11 *And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?*

#### Life was threatened

Moses was about to be stoned to death in Exodus 17:4 *And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.*

#### Self denial

Moses had such a great commitment even he denied himself for the sake of God and His people. Exodus 34:28 *And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.*

#### Authority was challenged

Even though Moses was commissioned by God and used in a mighty way, his authority was questioned by Korah and his company in Numbers 16:3 *And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?*

#### Finishing the work

Moses was a faithful servant of the Lord to finish the work that was commissioned. Exodus 40:33 *And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the hanging of the court gate. So Moses finished the work*

**Jesus:**Commission from God

Jesus was commissioned even right from the foundation of the earth for a special task. Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Early knowledge of the mission

Even at the age of twelve Jesus was aware that He is not an ordinary child, He has been sent to this world for a specific purpose. Luke 2:49 *And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*

Rejection by his brethren

It was an astonishing fact that Jesus was rejected by His own. This truth certainly gives courage for those who are rejected and neglected even today for His name sake.

John 1:11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.* Luke 19:14 *But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.* Matthew 27:22 *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.*

Sorrowful

Bible reveals that Jesus was a man of sorrows when He was upon the face of this earth. Isaiah 53:3 *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Life was threatened

Jesus was targeted so much by his own people that even at times He had to disappear from them in order to protect himself. John 8:59 *Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.* John 10:31 *Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.*

Self denial

Before beginning His ministry Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights to deny him as he was human in nature. Matthew 4:2 *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered.*

Authority was challenged

Jesus was a son of man and in the same time He was a son of God. Looking at his human appearance, the religious community refused to accept Him as Messiah. His authority was questioned in Matthew 21:23 *And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?*

Finishing the work

Jesus never failed the plans of God the father concerning Him. Even unto death He was committed to the cause. With great satisfaction Jesus declares that He has finished His work on this earth in John 17:4 *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do* and in John 19:30 *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

**Reflection:**

In an August 2002 issue of Community Economics Newsletter [9], Spencer J. Campbell offers some thoughts on leaders, and shares several “reflections” about leadership,

including, “The measurement of leadership is not about the quantity of knowledge in your head, but the commitment to serve in your heart.” Leadership is not about being the smartest, the best, or the most popular, but about how much someone is willing to give of himself/herself. It is about commitment and dedication to a cause – and it is about believing in that cause to the extent that he/she is willing to sacrifice, humble himself/herself, and rises to the challenges ahead to help that cause succeed.

There is a danger when a leader drifts away from the cause for which God had called him/her. Bible accounts for many such instances. When Uzziah called to be a king - became a priest, was struck by leprosy, 2 Chronicles 26:5-23. When Saul left his office and offered burnt offering, he lost his kingdom, 1 Samuel 13:8-14. For the very same reason Paul says in Philippians 3:13-14 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Recently I read about Billy Graham and his commitment to the calling in the fourth chapter, “Lasering In on the Mission” of the book “The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham”[10]. Billy identified his calling, then refused to be diverted. He focused on his mission: evangelism, “to bring people out of their torpor of sin to salvation from it.” Christian apologist Ravi Zacharias observed, “Billy never changed his calling. Many times it could be said, ‘God loved him and others had a wonderful plan for his life.’ But he kept his focus. Many good things can stand in the way of fulfilling your calling just as much as bad things can. But Billy remained clear on what he was called to.” During a press conference Billy was grilled about the finances of his organization and asked, whether he expected to make substantial money from the city. As he continued to be pushed on the issue, Billy reached into his coat pocket and pulled out a telegram he’d received from the Hollywood, making a highly lucrative offer for him to star in two movies. “If my interest was in making money,” he said with a smile, “I’d take advantage of an offer like this.” In 1960, when Billy was swimming with President Lyndon Johnson at Camp David, and the president said in front of several staffers, “Billy, I think you ought to run for president when I’m finished with my term. If you do, I’ll put my entire organization behind you.” Billy answered with a laugh, “Mr. President, I don’t think I could do your job.” Later Billy revealed that President Richard Nixon offered him an ambassadorship, a cabinet post, “any job I wanted.” Earlier in 1952, Texas billionaire H.L.Hunt offered Billy six million dollars if he would run for president. To each of these Billy said, “God called me to preach, and I do not intend to do anything else as long as I live.” Billy’s focus was very clear. Billy kept his focus on the core mission, but this was tested most seriously in the late 1960s when he was asked to help start a Christian university. An insurance financier John D. MacArthur offered a thousand acres in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, along with a pledge of millions of dollars to launch the project. When others heard that Billy would be involved, additional million dollars were offered, and planning for Graham University began. “I consider this a major decision in my life”, Billy said, as he wrestled with the pros and cons. Certainly Billy was concerned about education. He supported others in their efforts to provide quality Christian education. Ultimately, after long discussions with coworkers and members of his board, he decided

the university would divert too much energy and funding away from his primary mission, evangelism. He backed out of the project, a decision that offended MacArthur and alienated the directors of the foundation that administered his wealth. German pastor Helmut Thielicke said, “The evangelist is like a man hunting a stag. If you want to hunt stag, you can’t shoot at rabbits. If you shoot rabbits, you’ll never see a stag. In my mind, Billy Graham was no rabbit shooter. He was always going for the stag.”

## Depending on God’s authority

### **Moses:**

God gave authority to Moses. In every move of his life he was depending on God to demonstrate that authority. God gave him authority to speak before Pharaoh, Exodus 3:10. God gave him authority to speak before his people, Exodus 3:16. Moses manifested God's power through miracles, Sirach 45:1-3 [11]. God's authority was revealed through the promulgation of the commandments and the law, Sirach 45:5. God showed mercy through the intimacy granted him by the Lord for his own faithfulness and meekness, Sirach 45:4-5. The very personification of the old covenant, Moses was also a type of Christ, the Prophet and Legislator of the new covenant, Deuteronomy 18:15. Moses was God's substitute in dealing with Pharaoh, hence God entrusted his own honor to Moses. God honored by having intimate relationship with him. He appeared face to face (Exodus 33:11) and spoke mouth to mouth (Numbers 12:8) to Moses and honored him as type of Christ in New Testament.

### **Jesus:**

Jesus said in John 10:30 *I and my Father are one*. Jesus being the incarnation of God himself, having all the authority, showed complete dependency on the authority of God the Father. He was not trying to do anything on His own. He was completely depending on God and trying to please Him by doing only His will.

Following verses tell us how much Jesus was depending on God’s authority.

John 5:30 *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me*

John 14:31 *But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.*

John 14:10 *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

John 8:28 *Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

Jesus never failed to exalt God the Father. John 14:28 *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.* We can understand how much Jesus was struggling when God the Father hid His face from Him. Matthew 27:46 *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

**Reflection:**

A successful leader always demonstrates great authority in every act towards building God's kingdom and never fails to declare that it is not done by his/her own, it is done as God has authorized him/her to do so. The fact that a leader is depending on God's authority needs to be made known to the people under the leadership. Never forget the fact that the authority is not of our own, it comes from the finished work at the cross. The fact is that when we act under God's authority, no one can stand against us and Satan has no authority over us. Jesus after His resurrection appeared to His disciples and said all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, Matthew 28:18. In the very next verse He says, "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*" Jesus very clearly told his disciples that He has power and authority in heaven and earth and asking them to use the same authority for His work. Certainly a leader trusting on God's authority can do the same work as God did and even much more than that for His name sake (John 14:12).

## Successful leadership transition

**Moses:**

Moses appointed leaders for various tasks as instructed by God. Moses couldn't enter into the Promised Land as he disobeyed God. Aaron died on the way at the age of 123. Moses as a successful leader ensured proper leadership transition to Joshua. The transition from Moses to Joshua was one of the few biblical models of successful leadership transition. Following are some of the steps Moses took towards transition of leadership.

**Appointing seventy elders:**

Numbers 11:16 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee*

**Appointing twelve men:**

Deuteronomy 1:23-25 *And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe: And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out. And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the LORD our God doth give us.*

**Leadership to Joshua:**

Moses during his final words to Israel declaring that he is too old to lead them any more and announcing the leadership transition to Joshua. Deuteronomy 31:2 *And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.* Deuteronomy 31:7 *And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.*

Deuteronomy 31:23 *And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee.*

**Jesus:**

The intention of Jesus was to establish the kingdom of God on this earth. His purpose was to bring people into His kingdom by delivering them from the bondage of the evil kingdom on this earth. He knew that he had been given a limited time on this earth to achieve this task. As an effective leader, right from day one he started developing followers and leaders for the days to come after He is gone. Below are the major steps taken by Jesus towards an effective leadership transition.

**Appointing seventy for ministry:**

Luke 10:1 *After these things the LORD appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.*

**Appointing twelve disciples:**

Mark 3:14-15 *And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*

**Appointing another Comforter:**

John 14:16-17 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

**Reflection:**

Great leaders know that there is no success without a successor. Moses prepared Joshua and Jesus prepared twelve disciples to continue their mission even after they were gone. Today the biggest challenge for spiritual leaders is to identify, develop a successor and proper transition of the leadership to the successor. Many ministries, once very successful, today even the name is not known as those ministries died along with the ministers who were the founders of the ministry. Most of the ministries are narrow focused to the current setup; there is no vision about the future generations. It is the greatest responsibility of spiritual leaders to mentor and motivate the younger generation in ministry. Following quotes are from three different personalities who achieved higher levels in their lives.

“Rarely does a second-generation hold the convictions it has inherited with the fervor to its fathers.”- Richard Niebuhr, Sociologist

“Every generation must stand on the shoulders of the previous generation and reach higher.” - Augustine, Theologian

“If I have seen further than others, it is only because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” - Isaac Newton, Scientist

According to Larry Kreider in “A Handbook for Spiritual Parenting” [12], following are the basic steps any spiritual leader should take in order to mentor and motivate younger believers towards ministry.

1. Pray for laborers for the Great Commission harvest
2. Establish expectations and parameters of relationship
3. Be transparent and vulnerable

4. Point young believer to the Jesus of the Bible
5. Learn to ask vital questions
6. Have regular contact
7. Maintain proper boundaries
8. Handle conflict properly
9. Learn to empower those whom you are mentoring
10. Bless those you are mentoring
11. Expect changes toward righteousness and maturity
12. Show, share and give away ministry as younger believers are ready

Recognizing gifts, talents and willingness to volunteer are the essential qualities of a spiritual leader who is involved in developing successors in ministry. Delegating responsibilities among the next level leaders is an effective way of sharing the work load as well as preparing leaders for tomorrow.

### A model for others to follow

There are many spiritual leaders in this world today, but very few live a life that sets a model for others to follow. Certainly Moses and Jesus lived a remarkable life that challenges Christian believers. What kind of leadership we have in church today? Following are the relevant details of some of the surveys conducted over a period of time on church leadership.

#### 1991 Survey of Pastors (Fuller Institute of Church Growth) [13]

- 90% work more than 46 hours a week
- 80% believed pastoral ministry affected their families negatively
- 33% believed ministry was a hazard to their family
- 75% reported a significant stress related crisis at least once in their ministry
- 50% felt themselves unable to meet the needs of the job
- 90% felt inadequately trained to cope with ministry demands
- 70% say they have a lower self esteem now compared to when they started in ministry
- 40% reported serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month
- 37% confessed to having been involved in inappropriate sexual behavior with someone in the church
- 70% do not have someone they consider a close friend

#### Pastors are Stressed

In 2005 Evangelicals Now [14] carried out a survey asking ministers to comment on their experience of stress, 'writer's block' for sermons, depression, anger, family tension, sexual temptation and loneliness. Answers from respondents, including Church of England ministers, pastors of independent evangelical churches, Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists and Church of Scotland ministers, established stress as the issue pastors struggle with the most.

At least some times

When asked if they experienced problems with any of the above 'at least sometimes'.

98% admitted suffering from stress;  
 86% said they felt depressed;  
 83% said they felt angry;  
 82% had experienced family tensions;  
 82% admitted struggling with sexual temptations;  
 70% had writer's block;  
 and 63% had felt lonely.

Often or always

When asked which problems they struggled with 'often or always' responses varied significantly.

47% said they were stressed;  
 26% felt lonely;  
 15% struggled with sexual temptation;  
 14% battled with family tensions;  
 14% felt depressed;  
 11% had writer's block;  
 and 6% had feelings of anger.

Experiences of protestant ministers who left local church ministry [15]

Seven main motivations for leaving local church ministry

16% Conflict in congregation, with staff or laity  
 10% Conflict with denominational officials; disillusioned with denomination  
 12% Burned out; disillusioned; felt constrained; sense of inadequacy  
 26% Prefer other ministry  
 6% Allegations of sexual misconduct  
 4% Needed to care for family or children  
 5% Problems in family; divorce  
 22% Inadequate data or other

What is seen above is a disturbing fact about the leadership today. A high percent of leaders are handling such conflicting issues within themselves and not known for anything else other than these issues. Such a survey certainly triggers many questions. Why these leaders are not able to perform as role models? What makes a leader the one world is looking for? Where can we find such leaders? It is appropriate to analyze these in the light of the leadership of Jesus and Moses. Certainly these men of God seem to be having something that is missing in many of the spiritual leaders today. These missing elements bring in significant difference in the life of spiritual leaders and make them as models for others to follow.

### **Holiness**

When God appeared to Moses at the burning bush He revealed Himself as Holy God. He revealed Himself to Moses again in Exodus 31:13 as Jehovah Mekadesh, the Lord who sanctifies you. The life of Moses was completely transformed to a holy life by the very presence of the holy Lord. Jesus lived a holy life on this earth that no one could blame on His holiness.

Leaders who live in purity of mind and heart certainly stand out due to their relative scarcity. According to Bill Pollard, “Reputations are fragile. They must be handled with care like a valuable vase that if dropped can never quite be put together again.” Billy Graham says, “When wealth is lost, nothing is lost. When health is lost, something is lost. When character is lost, everything is lost.” The enemy is well aware of this. He doesn’t worry about our talents and ability to lead. His aim is to blemish our moral life and make us ineffective leaders. He does that in a three step process. He brings in temptations, make us fall in the temptation to commit sin and make us complacent about what we have done. It is better to be aware of temptation and kill that at the first instance rather than struggling with it for ever. Never underestimate small temptations. A leader should be aware of compelling images, videos, voices, TV programs, movies, magazines, websites and any such opportunities tempt us to open our wallets, minds and bodies to what seem like natural desires but which could destroy our ability to lead.

### **Selflessness**

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came to see Moses and brought Moses' wife and two sons with him in Exodus 18:5 and at the end of the same chapter, Jethro returned to his own land. One can imagine how much time Moses could have spent with his family while leading Israel in the wilderness. That is the price Moses was prepared to pay in order to become a successful leader. On the other hand in Matthew 8:20 *And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.* No one knows how much time and in what kind of place Jesus slept every day during His ministry. One thing we know is that He went to the mountain and continued all night in prayer to God. All successful leaders would not have achieved anything unless they were willing to sacrifice and pay the price for the cause they were committed for. What Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me* is more appropriate for leaders who believe that ministry is having an adverse effect on their family. Luke 9:62 *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God* is certainly a warning for leaders those who once involved and now left their ministry due to various reasons.

### **Faith**

Moses could proceed through the wilderness taking the rebellious crowd of Israelites even through the adverse situations only because of his trust in the Lord. Jesus had such a tremendous faith in the Father that He will be reunited with Him after the cruel separation He experienced at the cross. Spiritual leaders are expected to walk by faith, not by sight. No depression and stress can overcome the one who walk by faith. He is

like a leaf which is green even at the hottest moment and yields fruit even at the drought. Jeremiah 17:7-8 *Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

### **Closer walk with the Lord**

Loneliness is a powerful weapon of the enemy. According to teen statistics, loneliness or feeling left out is one of the major reasons of teens attempting suicide. No wonder it doesn't spare spiritual leaders too. An ultimate solution to escape from this snare of the enemy is to develop a closer walk with the Lord. Both Moses and Jesus at some point of time in their ministry faced rejection by their own and people turning against them. The only secret that kept them walking was their intimate relationship with the Lord. Abraham walked with the Lord and he was called as Friend of God. Making friendship with the Lord certainly drives away the feeling of loneliness. Prayer and meditation of the word of God are two essential elements for closer walk with the Lord. A wise leader who is careful enough to allocate required time for these activities will escape from the trap of loneliness.

### **Keep eyes focused on the Lord**

Moses had a task of delivering the people of Israel and reaching Canaan along with them. Jesus had a task of establishing the kingdom of God. Both had kept their eyes focused on the Lord and ran towards achieving their tasks. Every spiritual leader play a role in fulfilling the great commission given by Lord Jesus in Mark 16:15, *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.* Leaders are running a race and they cannot afford to miss what they were commissioned to achieve. Taking their eyes away from the Lord will deviate from the original track and results in ego clashes, falling in lust for money, conflicts among congregation and seeking vain glory. Looking at others who are running in parallel tracks, trying to follow their leadership style and replicate their calling will lead to destruction. Keeping our eyes focused on the Lord will remind His love and renew our passion towards achieving what was commissioned rather than getting distracted by issues around us.

It doesn't matter what kind of leadership role we are in today. It doesn't matter how big the crowd is. It doesn't matter how big the building is. It doesn't matter what denomination we belong to. What matters is that how far we are faithful to the Lord in what is given. Hebrews 3:2 testifies that *Moses was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.* Ultimately on that day when we stand before the Lord, He should look at us and tell *"Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord,"* Matthew 25:23.

---

### **References:**

1. "Moses-A Type of Christ" published by Providence Baptist Ministries, Granbury, Texas  
<[http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Gleanings\\_Exodus/exodus\\_72.htm](http://www.pbministries.org/books/pink/Gleanings_Exodus/exodus_72.htm)>

2. Part 1b: Moses, type of Christ, 75 similarities, The Jerome Bible Commentary, <<http://biblia.com/jesusbible/exodus1b.htm>>
3. 32 Miracles of Moses <<http://biblia.com/miracles/moses.htm>>
4. Servant leadership from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servant\\_leadership](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servant_leadership)>
5. Level 5 Leadership: The Triumph of Humility and Fierce Resolve, Harvard Business Review, ReprintR0101D, 2001 <[http://www.hr-newcorp.com/articles/Level5\\_Leadership\\_Jim\\_Collins.pdf](http://www.hr-newcorp.com/articles/Level5_Leadership_Jim_Collins.pdf)>
6. Watchman Nee. The Character of God's Workman. Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc. New York, 1998.
7. EQUIP – Equipping Leaders To Reach Our World <[http://www.iequip.org/atf/cf/{B11550F8-928E-4495-A24A-C10C76662C86}/Prayer\\_Life.pdf](http://www.iequip.org/atf/cf/{B11550F8-928E-4495-A24A-C10C76662C86}/Prayer_Life.pdf)>
8. Biography of Pastor Richard Wurmbrand <<http://members.cox.net/wurmbrand/wurmbrandbio.html>>
9. Community Economics Newsletter <<http://www.aae.wisc.edu/pubs/cenews/docs/ce310.txt>>
10. Harold Myra and Marshall Shelley. The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham. Christianity Today International, Michigan, 2005.
11. The new American Bible <<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/bible/sirach/intro.htm>>
12. Leadership Tips, A publication of Leadership Development and Church Ministries, Open Bible Churches, Winter 2001 <[www.openbible.org/pdf\\_brochures/Leadership\\_tips\\_archive/LEADERSHIPTIP\\_S\\_WINTER01.pdf](http://www.openbible.org/pdf_brochures/Leadership_tips_archive/LEADERSHIPTIP_S_WINTER01.pdf)>
13. Some interesting Statistics as mentioned in the book “Pastors at Risk” by H.B. London & Neil Wiseman. Victor Press. 1993 <[http://www.smallchurch.com/06\\_Statistics.htm](http://www.smallchurch.com/06_Statistics.htm)>
14. Pastors are stressed, Evangelicals Now, 2005 <<http://www.eauk.org/resources/info/statistics/leadershiplatest34.cfm>>
15. Experiences of protestant ministers who left local church ministry, Dean R. Hoge and Jacqueline E. Wenger, Catholic University of America, Presented to the Religious Research Association, Norfolk, VA, October 25, 2003. <[www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu/Hoge.pdf](http://www.pulpitandpew.duke.edu/Hoge.pdf)>