

Question:

How can we view the effectiveness of Moshe when it comes to leadership and prayer and how can we apply it to our lives?

Response:

Moses' Effectiveness in Prayer and Leadership

In his book “Thou Shalt Prosper”, Rabbi Daniel Lapin outlines four basic character traits a leader should possess:

1. A leader must be willing to follow if they are to lead
2. A leader must maintain a clear vision of the goal
3. A leader can expect to receive confrontation from those he is leading, in some cases it is necessary
4. Leadership requires mastery of both faith and facts.

Willing to Follow:

Moses humble nature: Not self proclaimed but Adonai's assessment. Numbers 12:3

Num 12:3 Now this man Moshe was very humble, more so than anyone on earth.

Moses listened to his Father in-law in Exodus 18 regarding the delegation of authority. Was willing to receive direction that would enable him to better lead the people.

Moses dealing with confrontation:

- Intercedes on behalf of people, seeking mercy for their transgressions
 - Miriam and Aaron – Those closest to Moses

Num 12:1 Miryam and Aharon began criticizing Moshe on account of the Ethiopian woman he had married, for he had in fact married an Ethiopian woman.

Num 12:2 They said, "Is it true that Adonai has spoken only with Moshe? Hasn't he spoken with us too?" Adonai heard them.

Num 12:3 Now this man Moshe was very humble, more so than anyone on earth.

Num 12:4 Suddenly Adonai told Moshe, Aharon and Miryam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." The three of them went out.

Num 12:5 Adonai came down in a column of cloud and stood at the entrance to the tent. He summoned Aharon and Miryam, and they both went forward.

Num 12:6 He said, "Listen to what I say: when there is a prophet among you, I, Adonai, make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream.

Num 12:7 But it isn't that way with my servant Moshe. He is the only one who is faithful in my entire household.

Num 12:8 With him I speak face to face and clearly, not in riddles; he sees the image of Adonai. So why weren't you afraid to criticize my servant Moshe?"

Num 12:9 The anger of Adonai flared up against them, and he left.

Num 12:10 But when the cloud was removed from above the tent, Miryam had tzara`at, as white as snow. Aharon looked at Miryam, and she was as white as snow.

Num 12:11 Aharon said to Moshe, "Oh, my lord, please don't punish us for this sin we committed so foolishly.

Num 12:12 Please don't let her be like a stillborn baby, with its body half eaten away when it comes out of its mother's womb!"

Num 12:13 Moshe cried to Adonai, "Oh God, I beg you, please, heal her!"

Num 12:14 Adonai answered Moshe, "If her father had merely spit in her face, wouldn't she hide herself in shame for seven days? So let her be shut out of the camp for seven days; after that, she can be brought back in."

Num 12:15 Miryam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not travel until she was brought back in.

Moses listened to the heartfelt sincere plea of his brother and conveyed it to Adonai.

Not a permanent punishment resulting in death.

Whose punishment was greater – Aharon or Miryam?

What were the results:

- Clearly defined and reestablished who Israel's leader is
- Consequences for our actions that resulted from transgression of Adonai's instructions.
- Restoration in repentance.
- **Two separate accounts where the people rebelled yet Moses remained steadfast in his role.**

Recounting the golden calf and

Deu 9:13 Moreover, Adonai said to me, 'I have seen this people, and what a stiffnecked people they are!

Deu 9:14 Let me alone, so that I can put an end to them and blot out their name from under heaven! I will make out of you a nation bigger and stronger than they.'

Deu 9:19 I was terrified that because of how angry Adonai was at you, of how heatedly displeased he was, that he would destroy you. But Adonai listened to me that time too.

Deu 9:20 In addition, Adonai was very angry with Aharon and would have destroyed him; but I prayed for Aharon also at the same time.

Deu 9:21 I took your sin, the calf you had made, and burned it up in the fire, beat it to pieces, and ground it up still smaller, until it was as fine as dust; then I threw its dust into the stream coming down from the mountain.

Adonai was getting ready to replace the people, not the leader. Through Moses, he interceded on behalf of the people.

Deu 9:22 "Again at Tav`erah, Massah and Kivrot-HaTa'avah you made Adonai angry;

Deu 9:23 and when Adonai sent you off from Kadesh-Barnea by saying, 'Go up and take possession of the land I have given you,' you rebelled against the order of Adonai your God - you neither trusted him nor heeded what he said.

Deu 9:24 You have been rebelling against Adonai from the day I first knew you!

Deu 9:25 "So I fell down before Adonai for those forty days and nights; and I lay there; because Adonai had said he would destroy you.

Deu 9:26 I prayed to Adonai ; I said, 'Adonai Elohim! Don't destroy your people, your inheritance! You redeemed them through your greatness, you brought them out of Egypt with a strong hand!

Deu 9:27 Remember your servants Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov! Don't focus on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or on their sin.

Deu 9:28 Otherwise, the land you brought us out of will say, "It is because Adonai wasn't able to bring them into the land he promised them and because he hated them that he has brought them out to kill them in the desert."

Deu 9:29 But in fact they are your people, your inheritance, whom you brought out by your great power and your outstretched arm.'

In each instance, Adonai was wanting to replace the people, not the leader for whom He chose.

Adonai was confident in whom He chose to lead.

It was Moses' humble and unselfish intercession on behalf of the people that kept Adonai from following through.

Moses causes Adonai to remember the covenant promises He made.

In these accounts, what were the reasons for confrontation?

- Aharon and Miryam were envious or jealous of Moses and his position – they coveted it
- The people weren't happy because they were considering their own needs and wants first. anxious
- They didn't understand the vision for their future. They would rather live in slavery and be provided for than live in freedom.
- Lacked patience, weren't willing to take the journey that would lead them to becoming a great nation. (short sighted)

Relate to Matthew 6:25 -34 Messiah said: encouraging the faith of others through emphasizing the vision.

Mat 6:25 "Therefore, I tell you, don't worry about your life – what you will eat or drink; or about your body – what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds flying about! They neither plant nor harvest, nor do they gather food into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they are?

Mat 6:27 Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to his life?

Mat 6:28 "And why be anxious about clothing? Think about the fields of wild irises, and how they grow. They neither work nor spin thread,

Mat 6:29 yet I tell you that not even Shlomo in all his glory was clothed as beautifully as one of these.

Mat 6:30 If this is how God clothes grass in the field – which is here today and gone tomorrow, thrown in an oven – won't he much more clothe you? What little trust you have!

Mat 6:31 "So don't be anxious, asking, 'What will we eat?,' 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we be clothed?'

Mat 6:32 For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

Mat 6:33 But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Mat 6:34 Don't worry about tomorrow — tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough troubles already!

- **Moses placed the reputation of who he was following above His own needs or wants**

Concern for what others will think of Adonai and His reputation: Numbers 14:13 – 20

Num 14:13 However, Moshe replied to Adonai, "When the Egyptians hear about this — *[and they will,]* because it was from among them that you, by your strength, brought this people up —

Num 14:14 they will tell the people living in this land. They have heard that you, Adonai, are with this people; that you, Adonai, are seen face to face; that your cloud stands over them; that you go ahead of them in a column of cloud by day and a column of fire by night.

Num 14:15 If you kill off this people at a single stroke, then the nations that have heard of your reputation will say

Num 14:16 that the reason Adonai slaughtered this people in the desert is that he wasn't able to bring them into the land which he swore to give them.

Num 14:17 So now, please, let Adonai's power be as great as when you said,

Num 14:18 'Adonai is slow to anger, rich in grace, forgiving offenses and crimes; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents' offenses to be experienced by their children and even by the third and fourth generations.'

Num 14:19 Please! Forgive the offense of this people according to the greatness of your grace, just as you have borne with this people from Egypt until now."

Num 14:20 Adonai answered, "I have forgiven, as you have asked.

Moses leadership – a further look (previously mentioned his humbleness.)

- Acquired skills in the palace in Egypt, subordinate to Pharaoh (follow)
- Developed skills as a shepherd when working for his father in law in Mydian. (follow)
- Deployed what he learned in the desert

What more can we learn from Moses and his leadership style?

- He was willing to follow first. (every leader has someone to answer to.)
- He subordinated his needs / wants / desires, even when enticed with the notion of becoming a great nation himself
- He was more concerned with the reputation of the One he was following, than his own.
- He interceded for those he was leading, in spite of their actions.
- In doing all of the above, in spite of the confrontations, he fulfilled the vision of Adonai, in bringing His people to the land promised to Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov
- Moses displayed the fourth trait of leadership – the mastery of both faith and fact. (the only one who could remove Moses from his leadership role was the one who placed him there.)

Question:

How can we view the effectiveness of Avraham when it comes to servant-hood and how can we apply it to our lives?

Response:

We can learn much from the servant of Avraham who was entrusted to select a wife for his son Yitz'chak.

As wealthy as Avraham was, the servant was entrusted with his most valued possession, his son.

Torah Blessing

Gen 24:2 Avraham said to the servant who had served him the longest, who was in charge of all he owned, "Put your hand under my thigh;

Gen 24:3 because I want you to swear by Adonai, God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not choose a wife for my son from among the women of the Kena`ani, among whom I am living;

Gen 24:9 The servant put his hand under the thigh of Avraham his master and swore to him concerning the matter.

Gen 24:12 He said, "Adonai, God of my master Avraham, please let me succeed today; and show your grace to my master Avraham.

Gen 24:26 The man bowed his head and prostrated himself before Adonai.

Gen 24:27 Then he said, "Blessed be Adonai, God of my master Avraham, who has not abandoned his faithful love for my master; because Adonai has guided me to the house of my master's kinsmen."

Torah Blessing

So, just who is this servant of Avraham? Although nameless in this passage, he is considered to be Eli`ezer

He has garnered enormous trust from Avraham:

- He is Avraham's head servant who has served him the longest
- He is in charge of everything Avraham owned
- He was entrusted with an enormous responsibility in selecting a wife for Avraham's son, who would become the new matriarch of this family.
- Length of service indicates that he is both loyal and faithful to Avraham
- He is passionate in his service to Avraham
- His desires are to satisfy those who he serves.
- His prayers are to succeed for the one he serves

In turn, Avraham's servant has trusted him because:

- He knows that Avraham has faithfully followed Adonai
- He has seen how Avraham conducts himself
- He has been well provided for, to the point that he would have been Avraham's heir had Yitz'chak not been born.

Do we have the same attitude?

Other Aspects:

We are all servants in one way or another.

More and more we hear stories of customer service that does anything but service the customer.

What used to be included with the purchase of a product is now either a limited support contract or an additional cost.

Our economy is considered to be a service based economy whereby 70% of the jobs are service related. In reality, it is 100%, because we are all in service to someone.

Many companies have exported their customer service departments to other countries to save money, rather than finding ways to be more efficient with their service.

Automated phone systems and web sites are supposed to offer a more efficient level of customer service, but in many cases are lacks in doing what it is intended to do...service the customer.

The concept "to serve" is being squeezed out of our way of thinking.

As an employee, we serve those who employ us (company and customer)

As an employer, we serve both our employees and customers.

In closing...

We need to have the attitude of Avraham's servant.

- Our interest should be that of the one we serve.
- We should be willing to serve and with an open heart
- We should be passionate in our service

As believers, we serve Adonai by serving others.

To serve is privilege and a responsibility,

To serve shouldn't be limited to our group as believers but should be part of everything we do in life...it should be our way of life.

In many things, Messiah is our example, our service as well...

Mar 9:35 He sat down, summoned the Twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all."

Mat 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mat 9:37 Then he said to his talmidim, "The harvest is rich, but the workers are few.

Mat 9:38 Pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers to gather in his harvest."

Mat 20:25 But Yeshua called them and said, "You know that among the Goyim, those who are supposed to rule them become tyrants, and their superiors become dictators.

Mat 20:26 Among you, it must not be like that. On the contrary, whoever among you wants to be a leader must become your servant,

Mat 20:27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave!

Mat 20:28 For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve — and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Whether your aspiration is to lead or not, you must be willing to serve first.

Ultimately, what Avraham was he was able to serve as an example to others as is represented by Eli'azar his servant who ultimately follow the example of his master.