

Moses - cont.

his children just like the rest of the Israelites. God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35).

- Consider how to be the most effective in leading others. It is hard to lead others when you are not following God's word yourself (Acts 16:3; Philipians 2:15).
- Zipporah acted quickly to remedy the situation. True repentance involves urgency (2 Corinthians 7:11).
- Be right with God first before going ahead in life. This was true for Moses and for us today (Joshua 5:2-9; Jeremiah 9:26; Romans 2:29; Philipians 3: 3; Colossians 2:11-12).
- Set the example of leadership in your own self and your own family first, before attempting to lead others (1 Timothy 3:4-5,10; 4:12).
- Moses was reminded of the serious nature of disobedience. Take God and his covenant seriously (Exodus 6:5; Hebrews 12:28-29).
- God did not overlook what was lacking in Moses' life. Sins of omission in our life will be held in account by God (James 4:17).
- Chris Reeves -

- Thought of the Week -

If God and his word are good enough for me, then God and his word are good enough for my spouse and children as well. This should be obvious. I need to try my hardest to include my family in spiritual things. When I pray, sing, study the Bible, attend a service, etc., I want to make sure my family is with me. I want to include them as much as possible. God is for my whole family! God wants me to serve him with my spouse and my "little ones" (see 2 Chron. 20:13; Josh. 8:35; Ezra 8:21).

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Moses: the Bridegroom of Blood

And it came to pass on the way at the lodging-place, that Jehovah met him, and sought to kill him. Then Zipporah took a flint, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet; and she said, Surely a bridegroom of blood art thou to me. So he let him alone. Then she said, A bridegroom of blood art thou, because of the circumcision.

- Exodus 4:24-26 -

The scripture above is a puzzling passage indeed. The Lord wants to kill Moses! What? The Lord had just told Moses to go to Egypt and deliver his people from Pharaoh and now he wants to kill him. Why the sudden change in circumstances?

Well, we infer from the text that the Lord's desire to kill Moses is in some way tied to the fact that his son had not yet been circumcised. Let's consider some important lessons for us today from this interesting text.

What We Do Not Know

There are several things about this text that we do not know that maybe we would like to know. For example, we do not know why Moses had not already circumcised his son. Was it carelessness? Was it disobedience? Was it his wife? Some scholars suggest that

his wife had previously been opposed to the practice. The fact is, we just don't know.

We do not know how God was going to kill Moses. We do not know why Zipporah performed the circumcision instead of Moses. We do not know which son was circumcised (Exodus 4:20; 18:1-5). Presumably it was Gershom. And, we do not know why Zipporah spoke the way she did.

What We Do Know

While there are several things that we do not know about this text, there are also several things that we do know. For example, we know that God had commanded circumcision of Abraham and the children of Israel (Genesis 17:10-14). Moses would have known this.

We also know that God had called Moses to lead Israel out of bondage because of God's covenant with Abraham (Exodus 3-4). Moses was going to lead circumcised Israelites out of Egypt, and yet, he had a son that was not circumcised!

We know that God had considered this matter serious enough to want Moses dead (Exodus 4:24).

We know, like Jacob (Genesis 32) and Balaam (Numbers 22), that God had a mat-

ter to settle before Moses could proceed. If Moses was to carry out his divine commission with success, he must prove himself to be a faithful servant in his own house (Hebrews 3:2).

It's not a good idea to try and lead circumcised Israelites with your own son uncircumcised. It is this point that we now want to explore further. What are some leadership principles that we can learn from this text?

Leadership Principles

- Get your life right first before helping others. Moses needed to circumcise his son before leading Israel. Jesus would make this same point in Matthew 7:1-5 about judging others. He would also tell others in Matthew 23:3 to practice what they preached.
- One "small," "little" thing lacking can hinder one's service to God. Circumcision may have been a "small" thing for Moses to overlook, but it was important to God. Just one thing lacking is still lacking (Mark 10:21). Just one sin will make one a law-breaker (James 2:10).
- Leaders are not exempt from obedience. Moses must obey God for