

Moses - Leadership with Holy Indignation and Passion¹

The Book of *Exodus* starts to tell us one of the most famous stories of all human history – story of the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt. Beginning in Chapter 2 we see that it was time to bring up a deliverer, Moses. Accordingly, the narrative now focuses on that one man. It is not a complete biography. This portion, however, furnishes enough information for us to see how *Adonai* formed and prepared this great deliverer. Moses needed to grow in several areas of his life in order for *Adonai* to use him effectively as a leader. Leadership has many dimensions and encompasses many definitions. Scripture focuses on leadership as vital for success in sharing the Good News and growing Congregations! We all talk about leadership, we want good, solid leadership, and we must prioritize leadership skillsets in all that we do! One of the most important things that congregants and visitors are looking for is strong, effective, visionary, and engaging leadership in a congregation.

Leadership far more than just a title. It's about how you engage with the congregational community. It's strong, effective leaders that inspire members to keep coming back and help grow the congregation. Without good leadership congregations won't grow and thrive. Here is the foundational key to this: Leaders, by definition, must have followers. It's natural to presume, therefore, that a main indicator of leadership success and effectiveness—maybe the most important—is the number of followers. It would follow then that *the better the leader the more the followers*. Perhaps in this area I have not been very successful. There are also other important dimensions that are critical to good leadership.

Good leadership is critical for our success too spread the Good News, listen, inspire, motivate, and give a vision with common goals to aspire to! Solid, visionary Leadership has been in high demand since the start of the pandemic and is increasingly in demand as weighty, global issues require biblical leadership to shine the light in this extremely dark hour! To be topical and relevant, to give biblical, kingdom solutions and harness the power of *Adonai* to reach our common goals.

The Body of Messiah is already in transition; Billy Graham gone in 2017, we just lost Pastor Jack Hayford, Pat Robertson will be next...there is a power vacuum in the Body of Messiah. Stunningly a recent Barna Survey reveals only 37% of pastors have a biblical world view. When there's a power vacuum something always fills it...right now it's not us but it needs to be.

Biblical leadership is focused upon the sustainability of Kingdom influence over time and how that occurs. True leaders are able to retain power and influence because they genuinely are supported by willing followers. Good leadership is defined by modeling kingdom morality, ethics, and inclusiveness! Effectiveness is guided by a strong moral compass while open to every learning opportunity. Leaders must have the courage to do what is right regardless of others' opinions, political correctness, or possible undesirable repercussions. We need to be relevant, able to effectively deal with Wokeism, Critical Race Theory, Cancel Culture, Transgenderism, Racism, BLM, and Anti-Semitism with His truth! Let us get ahead of these falsehoods & combat them with truth. Silence on our part means acceptance on their part.

This is also critical when dealing with conflict, correction, and or discipline situations in our congregations. Over the years when I've dealt with congregation problems. I have had people approach me and thank me for doing so as the person I dealt with was so toxic and obnoxious good congregates we're preparing to leave (blessed subtraction). Though unpleasant, it must be done in love for the greater Kehillah and the wellbeing of the Congregates. This often involves overcoming fears, hesitations, and the human aversion to conflict. A decorated military hero once said: The difference between a coward and a hero is this: *A coward and a hero are both afraid, but the hero turns in the right direction.*

Like *Yeshua* we should view our current society with *Holy Indignation*: ¹⁴*In the Temple, He found the merchants selling oxen, sheep, and doves; also the moneychangers sitting there. ¹⁵Then He made a whip of cords*

and drove them all out of the Temple, both the sheep and oxen. He dumped out the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves, He said, "Get these things out of here! Stop making My Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it is written, "Zeal (Zelos: zeal, fiery wreath, anger, fervent) for your House will consume Me!" (John 2:14-17).

Our lives, who we are, our congregations are comprised of the decisions, experiences, and choices we've made and will make in our lives! Our goal is to influence people to make wiser decisions, better choices, and have positive experiences through the transformative power of *Yeshua* and the *Ruach HaKodesh*. To take a righteous stand for truth, Justice, holiness, and to be a voice for the voiceless. You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with. your potential is determined by those closest to you! If you want to achieve success and make an impact in this world for the kingdom you need to surround yourself with strong leaders who will help you maximize your full potential. The most effective way after prayer and intimacy with *Adonai* to grow our congregation is our leaders to grow and improve. To do so we must *pick a fight*. Plenty of targets. Wokeism, CRT, transgenderism, BLM, Antisemitism, cancel culture, even biblical world view... speak the word of truth into these false narrative and let us do so with passion: *Contend for the Faith with the Ungodly* ³*Loved ones, though very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I felt it necessary to write to you urging you to continue to contend for the faith that was once for all handed down to the kedoshim.* (Jude 1:3).

People also seek *Passion*! Look at our great leaders in the word! Abraham, Moses, Pinchas, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah, Matthew Maccabeus, *Yeshua*, The Twelve Talmidim, Paul! All had great *Passion and Zeal*! Every one of these examples (there is more) radically changed the world forever! They all had a passionate, raging fire for the Kingdom of God and in the Newer Covenant *Yeshua* burning uncontrollably within their heart, Spirit, and Soul!

Corporations, organizations, movements, and men have spent copious amounts of time, energy, and money attempting to figure out what makes various people or organizations successful. It is Human nature to look appearances, dress, titles, skill sets, intelligence, education, and training solve the success riddle. In reality its passion more than anything else that drives success! *Passion* is what makes the difference.

IF we pause to look at the lives of effective leaders, you'll quickly see that there is NO pattern, no single recipe for success. More than 50% of all CEOs of Fortune 500 companies had C or C- averages in college. Nearly 75% of all US Presidents were in the bottom half of their classes. More than 50% of all millionaire entrepreneurs never finished college. However, *Passion* is what allows ordinary people to do extraordinary great things! There are four truths about *Passion* that I want to challenge you with as I close. If you follow *your passion* instead of other's perceptions, you'll become person of influence and change. In the end *your passion* has more influence and impact than your personality, eloquence, or knowledge: ²³*Whatever work you do, put yourself into it, as those who are serving not merely other people, but the Lord.* ²⁴*Remember that as your reward, you will receive the inheritance from the Lord. You are slaving for the Lord, for the Messiah" (Colossians 3:23-24).*

Here are a few dynamics about Passion and what it can do:

1. *Passion* is the first step to achievement. Passion is a heart desire that burns in the person making them dogmatic: ⁴*May he grant you your heart's desire and bring all your plans to success" (Psalms 20:4)...* ³*Trust in Adonai, and do good; settle in the land, and feed on faithfulness. ⁴Then you will delight yourself in Adonai, and he will give you your heart's desire. ⁵Commit your way to Adonai; trust in him, and he will act" (Psalms 37:3-5).* Your *PASSION* determines your destiny. The stronger your fire, the greater the passion, the greater the passion the greater the success!
2. *Passion* fuels willpower. **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR PASSION**. It is the fuel for the will! If you want something badly enough you will find a way to achieve it and succeed: ¹²*Hope deferred*

makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life (Proverbs 13:12)... "A person whose desire rests on you, you preserve in perfect peace, because he trusts in you" (Isaiah 26:3).

3. *Passion* will transform you! If you follow your passion instead of others' perceptions, you can't help but succeed. In the end *your passion* will have more influence than your personality: ¹¹*Therefore, encourage each other, and build each other up - just as you are doing. ¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who are working hard among you, those who are guiding you in the Lord and confronting you in order to help you change. ¹³Treat them with the highest regard and love because of the work they are doing. Live at peace among yourselves; ¹⁴but we urge you, brothers, to confront those who are lazy, your aim being to help them change, to encourage the timid, to assist the weak, and to be patient with everyone (1 Thessalonians 6:11-14).*
4. *Passion* makes the impossible possible. We are created in Adonai's image! When *Godly passion* fills their soul impossibilities vanish – with God all things are possible! A person with great passion and few skills always outperforms a person with great skills and no passion: ²³*Yeshua said to him, "What do you mean, 'if you can'? Everything is possible to someone who has trust! (Mark 9:23).*

Passion comes from seeking God with all your heart. *Passion* comes from laying other things aside, sacrifice, to pursue the goal. *Passion* comes from being dissatisfied with the status quo. Jeremiah said God's word was like a *fire* that burned in his bones, and he couldn't contain it! *Get on fire! Get passionate! Pick a fight! Shabbat Shalom!*

ⁱ Portions of this message obtained from *Anger and Passion*, by Rabbi Eric Carlson, 2023 IAMCS Rabbis Conference. Used with permission.