

Series: Straight Outta Egypt

Date: March 9, 2016

Text: Exodus 2 - 6

Title: Leadership

Introduction

The time I lead Jody into the cornfields of Indiana.

Need

Everyone is looking for a leader.

Every teenager is thinking: Who can I follow? Copy? Emulate? Who can I watch and become like because I want the same life they have.

This generation has less leaders than ever. Why is this? We hear of many companies, businesses, and churches saying that there are less young leaders than every ready to step up and lead. That's why I love Mike Kiley our new Middle School Pastor!

People get leadership all wrong. Leadership is not: everyone look at me, I'm everyone's favorite, I'm the top teenager, I'm the cream of the crop.

Leadership guru John Maxwell says: "Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less." Leadership is living your life as an example for others to follow.

Story: I remember when some friends of mine asked me to leave my campers one night to sleep more comfortably.

Leadership takes sacrifice. Leadership requires hard work. Leadership is willingness to always do the right thing, not the popular thing. Leadership is loving others, serving others, and making your life about others. Leadership is having a vision of the future and the wisdom to get there. Leadership is saying no to things now in order to say yes to greater things later.

Tonight I want to talk to you about how to find your leader to follow, and how to be a leader so that others can follow you.

Leadership is simply following Jesus and bringing others with you.

Bible

Review last week:

Last week we talked about how God spared His people of Israel by bringing them to Egypt, but Egypt began to feel threatened by Israel and enslaved them. The more Israel were oppressed, the more they multiplied. **The movement God starts is impossible to stop.**

Moses' birth and adoption at 3 months (Exodus 2:1-10).

At months old, Moses' mom put him in a basket **DABBED IT**, and put him in the river. Pharaoh's daughter found him and took pity on him. Moses' sister runs over and says, can I go find someone to nurse him for you? Pharaoh's daughter ends up paying Moses' mother to keep Moses, nurse him, and raise him. How good is our God?

Moses' upbringing (Exodus 2:11-22).

When Moses was old enough, his mother took him to Pharaoh's daughter so that he would be raised in Egypt. Moses became her son. **Don't ever doubt what God is doing in your life.** Moses grew up, was educated, and was raised in Egypt's finest education system.

Moses' murder.

Moses grew in curiosity for his own people, the Hebrews. It looks like he would venture out and spy on them. One day, he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. Moses looked around and went Jason Bourne on the dude. Killed him, and hid the body in the sand. **Many leaders have a past.**

Moses on the run.

Word got out what had happened. Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses. Moses fled to Midian, ended up meeting a girl (a priest's daughter), got married, and had a son. During all of this at the end of Exodus 2, Israel continues to

groan to God for their rescue from slavery. God is always working behind the scenes to answer His people's prayers.

Moses met with God at the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:).

Every great leader has an unforgettable encounter with God. Moses will still in Midian as he was keeping his father-in-laws flock in the wilderness around Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God. This is where God appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. This was a miraculous scene because in the desert, if things caught fire, they would be consumed immediately. This bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. God called out to him from the burning bush saying, I Am the God of your Father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and God of Jacob. Moses hid his face. God tell Moses that He has heard Israel's cries and knows their sufferings. He says that He will deliver them, so He's going to send Moses to Pharaoh to bring the people straight outta Egypt.

Exodus 3:2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

Exodus 2:10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses' 5 excuses.

1. God, who do you think I am?

Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Exodus 3:12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

2. Who do you think You are, God?

Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’” *Exodus 3:15* God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

3. How are they going to believe me?

Exodus 4:1 Then Moses answered, “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”

God gives Moses signs.

Exodus 4:2 The Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.” *Exodus 4:3* And he said, “Throw it on the ground.” So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it. *Exodus 4:4* But the Lord said to Moses, “Put out your hand and catch it by the tail” —so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand— *Exodus 4:5* “that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

4. What about my weaknesses?

Exodus 4:10 But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

Exodus 4:11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹²Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.

5. Pick someone else to lead.

Exodus 4:13 But he said, “Oh, my Lord, please send someone else.”

Exodus 4:14 Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

Moses went back to Egypt.

God told Moses to go back, that He would harden Pharaoh’s heart, and that God would kill his firstborn son if he didn’t let go of God’s firstborn son.

The people believed Moses, bowed their heads, and worshipped.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. Denied.

Moses and Aaron lied to Pharaoh about leaving for three days.

Pharaoh made it harder on the Israelites.

The people hated Moses and Aaron.

Moses cried out to God.

Leadership is not always the easy life.

God promised deliverance.

God promised Moses that He will keep His promise of deliverance straight outta Egypt.

Gospel

In this passage, we can't think of ourselves like Moses. Instead, we are the Israelites who are enslaved and crying out to God for deliverance. Just like Moses, God has raised up Jesus as a Leader to answer our cries. Jesus went through a miraculous birth. We have stories of Jesus as a teenager.

But **Jesus is The Better Moses.** Jesus did not have a sinful past. Jesus did not give a bunch of excuses. Jesus willingly lead others through life to God. Jesus made the sacrifice and died. Jesus rose from the dead so that He can lead us to the Promise Land.

The point of the Gospel is not for Jesus to just be our Savior, but our Leader as well. **Jesus is not your Savior if you don't follow Him as your Leader.** In other words, we are called to believe in Jesus as our Savior and follow Jesus as our Lord.

Story

My calling to follow Jesus.

My calling to lead others to Jesus.

My calling to full-time ministry.

Application

How to follow Jesus with your life.

Don't just look at Jesus as someone to believe in, or someone to claim, but look at Him as the Leader to follow throughout all of life.

How to be a life-long leader.

All of you, God is calling you to be a leader who follows Jesus and brings others with them. The number one thing it takes to be a leader is FAITH.

How to follow Jesus into full-time ministry.

Some of you God may be calling into full-time ministry. Be faithful to God's call on your life now.

Conclusion

Are you a leader who is trying to lead people to yourself, or are you a leader who is following Jesus so that you can lead others to Him?

Leadership is following Jesus and bringing others with you!