

How God Uses Isolation To Develop Leaders

Moses spent 40 years in the desert. Surely during his time of isolation he must have questioned if he could trust his feelings. Could he ever trust one of his brothers or sisters? What was he supposed to do with his dream to liberate the Israelites? Most of the 40 years must have been great torture. It usually takes a long time for God to break in a great leader. It only took God six days to create our earth because it responded to Him with immediate obedience. However, when it comes to you and me often we fight against God even when you know He is trying to bless us. Often God has to break us down to move us from being "gift-dependent" to being "God-dependent". Moses struggled in the desert because his identity was based on what he could do for God. He could "kill" for what he thought was God's will, but would he be as reliable in situations that needed a patient, enduring touch. Could he be trusted to move a group of frightened people through the desert into a place of permanent freedom without killing the slaves who got on his nerves?

Ex. 3:1 Notice how much is not said in this text. None of the common details are mentioned yet they are what prepared Moses for his destiny and purpose. He was responsible for his father-in-laws flock. He was responsible for that which belonged to someone else. He was a common shepherd and that is what most prepared him for his future. Do not miss the fact that God will use your most common activities to prepare you for your destiny. Buying groceries, shopping for clothes, working on the job, day after boring day are the kinds of things that count with God. Your heart is seen, not when you are in front of the crowd, but when you are waiting in line at the bank, or sitting at your desk at work. How faithful are you with another man's stuff? Can you be trusted with what belongs to someone else?

Moses probably never imagined that it would be those mundane, daily, commonplace struggles of the shepherd that would train him best for the work God had for him. **What did you do today? How did your day start? Your activities today were somehow related to your kingdom assignment.**

Ex. 3:1-10, 11-14 and **Ex. 4:1-8, 10-14** What was going on with Moses? Before we explore his issues, what keeps you from fully serving God? Why don't you trust Him more? Moses was struggling with broken dreams, fear and insignificance. God was talking to Him, which was a big deal but in Moses' mind he was still unqualified. His excuses were counterpunches to protect himself from further hurt and disappointment. He let God know that he had the wrong man. He was a failure in his own mind.

God got angry with Moses because of his whining and excuses. God was angry because Moses had missed the fact that He had protected Moses from Pharaoh twice - once when he was born and also after he had killed the Egyptian. Here is the point - many great leaders run away from God at the burning bush. They decide they cannot change. That change is too painful and they run away from God. They refuse to accept a mission from God that is larger than their idea of themselves. They try to make God fit into their own limitations. They live out their lives in the desert - always saying but never doing.

How does God get Moses going again? He targets all of his fears. He raises all of his issues. When you are weak, more aware of your fragilities, that is when you are most strong in God. God targets your weaknesses because He wants to heal you. He does

not want you hiding in the desert for the rest of your life. God wants to fill your life within Him.

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