

The Art of Following

Exodus 4:27 thru 5:21

***Character Study
of the Life of Moses***

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Philippians 2:5-7

*And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! **Philippians 2:8***

*At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him. **Exodus 4:24***

“Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,” she said. So the Lord let him alone. (At that time she said “bridegroom of blood,” referring to circumcision.) **Ex. 4:25**

Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert.’ ” **Exodus 5:1**

Pharaoh said, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go.” **Ex. 5:2**

Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the desert to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword.” **Exodus 5:3**

Pharoah's Retaliation

1. Slaves to collect their own straw for the bricks
2. Heavier workloads
3. Israelite foremen were to be beaten
4. No trip to the wilderness for sacrifice allowed

So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw. The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, "Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw."

Exodus 5:12-13

When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, and they said, "May the Lord look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have

put a sword in their hand to kill us.” Exodus 5:20-21

Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

Exodus 5:22-23

Four Applications to help us become better followers

1. As good followers, we must have a proper recognition of authority.

Moses’ Leadership Credentials

- God’s power was evident in his life

- The trusted recommendation of Aaron who knew him well

he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. Proverbs 12:11b

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1 John 4:1

Objective Leadership Questions

- Does this person walk with God?
- Is the fruit of the Spirit evident in their life?
- Do they know the Bible?

2. A good follower, must have a humble spirit of submission.

Four Applications to help us become better followers.

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. **Hebrews 13:17***

*“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. **Luke 16:8-9***

**3. A good follower,
must have a loving oversight of
the leader's imperfections.**

Four Applications to help us become better followers.

God uses imperfect leaders because that's the only kind there are.

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1

4. A good follower, must persevere through adversity.

Four Applications to help us become better followers.

and they said, "May the Lord look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

Exodus 5:21

A very real test of a good follower is loyalty.

Do you persevere and stand by the leader when the going gets tough?

“Give honor to whom honor is due.” Romans 13:7