

Moses Versus Aaron

“14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.” (Exodus 4:14 KJV)

God had placed Aaron with Moses to help him in his ministry to lead the Israelites. But the character and the attitude of Aaron to lead the Israelites in the absence of Moses shows us how dangerous he proved to be in misleading the Israelites and in squandering their resources and using them for wrong purposes.

In the account of the golden calf that Aaron had made for the Israelites, we can observe the difference between the attitude of Moses and Aaron. Moses was willing to suffer for God while Aaron was tempted to stay in the comfort zone. **There will be people whom God had placed beside us to help us and we need to discern how they are as stewards. Wrong stewardship and wrong attitude in leadership can bring much harm. Team leadership patterned after that of Moses and Aaron is the same leadership we see in many churches and Christian homes today, where one can be spiritually weaker than the other.**

Moses persevered in admonishing Aaron till he was changed and finally Aaron repented and joined Moses and was willing to face the people and suffer for God.

To understand how having two leaders with opposite approaches and influences can hinder the fulfillment of God's plan for His people, let us read the following Scriptures:

“7 Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD. 8 Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you. 9 When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water: 10 And the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. 11 And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant. 12 And the LORD said unto me, Arise, get thee down quickly from hence; for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten image. 13 Furthermore the LORD spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: 14 Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they. 15 So I turned and came down from the mount, and the mount burned with fire: and the two tables of the covenant were in my two hands. 16 And I looked, and, behold, ye had sinned against the LORD your God, and had made you a molten calf: ye had turned aside quickly out of the way which the LORD had commanded you. 17 And I took the two tables, and cast them out of my two hands, and brake them before your eyes. 18 And I fell down before the LORD, as at

the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. 19 For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the LORD was wroth against you to destroy you. But the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also. 20 And the LORD was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time. 21 And I took your sin, the calf which ye had made, and burnt it with fire, and stamped it, and ground it very small, even until it was as small as dust: and I cast the dust thereof into the brook that descended out of the mount.” (Deuteronomy 9:7-21 KJV)

“1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. 3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. 4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. 7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. 11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. 14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people. 15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. 16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables. 17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. 18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. 19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. 20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. 21 And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast

brought so great a sin upon them? 22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. 23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf. 25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) 26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. 29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. 30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.” (Exodus 32:1-35 KJV) From the Scriptures we read we can conclude the following:

1. Moses calmed the Lord’s anger and prayed and interceded so that the Lord would forgive the people, while Aaron ignited the Lord’s anger. **Many provoke the anger of God by taking people’s side.**
2. Moses fasted for forty days on two occasions and received the Word of God, *“the two tables of the testimony”*. Aaron preferred to feast with the people and received nothing. Many ministers say they don’t know what to teach and aren’t able to receive the Word of God. How can they hear when they don’t want to fast and spend time in God’s presence? They will be in a famine of God’s Word. Such ministers preach according to people’s wishes, diluting the Word of God. Ultimately, they will drive the members to succumb to the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.
3. Moses edified the people by disciplining them with God’s Word and causing them to walk according to His will and finally turned them back to God while Aaron corrupted and spoiled the people by compromising with God’s Word.
4. Moses prayed and God listened to him. Aaron offered many burnt and peace offerings to God but there were no communication between him and God who detested his evil ways. He spent much on that occasion when the people made the golden calf and indulged in pagan rituals and revelry which was against the will of God. It was initiated by the people and not by God. They pressurized Aaron, who yielded to them. **Many churches have huge programs initiated by the people and with each program, many resources are spent resulting in more**

churches, families, and members ending in poverty, loans, and debts. There is one more thing worthy to be mentioned in the colossal damage caused by Aaron. **People who got involved in these functions thought that what they had spent on this occasion as burnt and peace offerings would return to them as blessings. But the fact was that God’s wrath was ignited against them. Therefore, we should not be deceived with such kind of church ministers and go along with them.**

5. Moses loved Aaron and fasted for him to be restored when he sinned, while Aaron betrayed Moses in taking the side of people who had disobeyed the Word of God. Moses appreciated Aaron and worked tirelessly to restore him. Aaron never thought of protecting Moses and it was easy for him to betray the ministry of God.

6. Moses focused on God and directed the people and instructed them to what God wanted them to do while Aaron was directed by the people and they instructed him what to do. **We should lead the people and instruct them with God’s commands and help them to continue to follow God.**

7. Moses protected the people’s resources and used them to build the Ark of the Covenant. *“4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, 5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass, 6 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, 7 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, 8 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense, 9 And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate. 10 And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded; 11 The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets, 12 The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering, 13 The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread, 14 The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light, 15 And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle, 16 The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot, 17 The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their sockets, and the hanging for the door of the court, 18 The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords, 19 The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office. 20 And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. 21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought the LORD's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all his service, and for the holy garments. 22 And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold: and every man that offered offered an offering of gold unto the LORD. 23 And every man, with whom was found blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, and red skins of rams, and badgers' skins, brought them. 24 Every one that did offer an offering of silver and brass brought the LORD's offering: and every man, with whom was found shittim wood for any work of the service, brought it. 25 And all the women that were wise hearted did spin with their hands, and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen. 26 And*

all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair. 27 And the rulers brought onyx stones, and stones to be set, for the ephod, and for the breastplate; 28 And spice, and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense. 29 The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the LORD, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the LORD had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses." (Exodus 35:4-29 KJV) The people used precious resources that God had given them to honor Him and serve Him. If we look into the Scripture, we can see there is a long list of materials that the people offered to God. **The Lord is always gracious to His people and lavishes on them His great riches. When they know how to keep and use appropriately the riches of God, then you will find them ready to do as well as contribute to the work of God.** Aaron wasted the people's resources and used them to do evil and promoted harmful things. **Ministers like Aaron who are weak will lose many resources and when the time comes to do the work of God, their churches and their people won't be able to.**

8. Moses molded the people into the frame that God's Word expected. He conformed to the pattern of God's Word while Aaron twisted the Word of God to suit the people's wishes and desires. After he made the calf he said, ***"To morrow is a feast to the LORD."*** (Exodus 32:5 KJV)

Many are conformed to the pattern of this world and use the ministry to host parties, festivals, music programs, indulging in a misuse of God's house for selling and buying, auctioning and engaging in filthy jokes, coarse talk, vulgar dances, immoralities, and other kinds of pagan revelry.

9. Moses' authority was from the Heavenly Kingdom of God and he was directed by God as to what to do while Aaron's authority was of this world and he was directed by the people.

10. **Moses' style of ministry and service included saving, fasting, suffering, and struggling to do God's will while Aaron's style of ministry included feasting, picnics, pleasure trips, sports festivals, wasting, and engaging in revelry and pagan practices.**

11. **Church leaders like Moses are blessed with good savings and contribute to the real work of God, but church leaders like Aaron are perpetually in debt and have loans to settle.**

12. **Moses was a God pleaser while Aaron was a people pleaser.**

13. **Aaron caused the people to be naked, *"25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies.)"*** (Exodus 32:25 KJV) **In churches led by people like Aaron, driven by their own wishes, we can see that even their dress code is far from what God had ordained; extravagant, worldly and vulgar, costly, and contributing to sexual immorality. On the other hand, leaders like Moses will impart to the people the fear of God, conservativeness, and decency in dress code and thriftiness.**

14. **Moses attracted faithful people; Joshua was with him. Around Aaron were corrupt people. Corruption will drive away good people.**

15. **Moses spoke the truth while Aaron when he was confronted, spoke lies about the calf he had made. *"then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf."*** (Exodus 32:24 KJV) **He did not say that he *"fashioned it with a graving tool,"*** (Exodus 32:4 KJV) **Many ministers like Aaron have numerous lies tucked under their belt to justify their wrongdoings and compromises.**

16. **Moses led the people into the infinite truth of God's Word as he led them towards the Promised Land. Aaron led the people into idol worship and curses.**

17. **Moses did what was right and stood firm in his approach. When we discipline people, we don't need to bow down to them or feel apologetic but need to continue in our stand. People like Aaron who knows the Word of God but compromise with the people, need to repent.**

18. **Moses was willing to endure suffering at the cost of adhering to God's Word when he faced the people. On the occasion when the people built the golden calf, Moses faced the people and destroyed the objects of their festivity and disrupted the whole celebration. In the case of Aaron, he was not willing to suffer and instead of admonishing the people of their sins, joined them in their sin and celebration.**

19. **Moses knew the consequences and the destructive effects of sin on the people. He burnt the idol, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the people drink it. Leaders like Moses explain and expound well to the people the bad effects of their sins. Aaron was not able to see the destructive effect of sin on people's lives. Such kind of leaders as Aaron is weak and not much discerning and need to be under the supervision of leaders like Moses.**

20. **When Moses announced, *"Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me."*** (Exodus 32:26 KJV) **he was willing to lose some of the people to save the rest and to lay down a true foundation. It was indeed a challenging situation and he had to make the decision. Moses chose the Word of God that is sharper than the double-edged sword to cut the ties of sin, flesh, culture, and tradition while Aaron used festivities to attract people's favor and approval.**

21. **Moses had true love for God's ministry and bore much fruit. He was able to bring the people back to God and to raise up a body of committed workers, the Levites along with other people, who accepted God's Word and discipline. Moses trained them to serve God and do His work.**

My dear and beloved: We need to help the people under our care and love them as Moses did so that they can rid themselves of idolatry, get saved and use their lives and resources for the extension of God's Kingdom on earth.

One of the most important fruits of Moses' ministry is winning Aaron for God. Moses persevered in admonishing Aaron till he was changed and finally repented and was willing to serve God wholeheartedly.

God had called Aaron to be with Moses, and he was a blessing to Moses and a good helpmate in the ministry. He conveyed the message of God, taking from Moses and passing it to the Israelites and he performed all the signs in the sight of the people as God had wanted him to. *"27 And the LORD said to Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses. And he went, and*

met him in the mount of God, and kissed him. 28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. 29 And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: 30 And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. 31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.” (Exodus 4:27-31 KJV) So we really need to help those people whom God has placed beside us. They might go astray when they are pressurized by people, but we need to forgive them and do all that we can to correct them in order for them to be restored.

Finally, Aaron adopted the method of Moses and responded well to God’s call. We need to do the same. We need to recognize parents or leaders who are like Aaron, and confront them in order for them to have the opportunity to repent and get saved. We will bear fruit in these areas in our family life and in our ministry. We will see them changed and transformed and they will walk once again in the ways of God and they will be of great help to us as good stewards. This is the calling that has been placed on our lives to lead others to be in the perfect will of God. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for the teaching and the corrections that I received in this message and the way that you wants us to serve you. Lord thank you for all the resources that you placed in our hands and the people that you placed around us.*

Come now to God and repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your fear of man, your compromises, your non willingness to stand firm on God’s Word and your non willingness to be persecuted. Repent of your flatteries, idol worship, parties and festivals just to please the people. Repent of your bad stewardship and wasting the resources of the ministry. Repent of your lack of fear of God. Repent of your lack of prayer and intercession and your lack of reading God’s Word. Repent of your lack of being patience in disciplining and discipling those whom God entrusted into your hand. Repent of your non willingness to be persecuted and suffer for Christ in your service unto God. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins:

_____.

Lord I commit my life to the teaching that we received in this message. Lord I am willing to stand firm on the truth of your Word. Lord I am willing to correct, rebuke and admonish your people who went astray and started to do their own. Lord I am willing to go and evangelize and make new disciples and teach them your Word and your command, and be willing to suffer for my service unto you.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who had committed themselves to the spiritual principles that we received in this message to stand with you on your Word and to proclaim your Word and teach the people your commands. Lord protect them from all persecution and provide all their needs so they can continue to serve you.

Lord, bless us as your church to lead your people according to your Word and commands. Lord enable us to train our workers that they will be able to stand on your Word and face the corruption, the idol worship and the compromises that are spread in this world. Lord, fill us

once again with the Holy Spirit and enable us to evangelize and reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord raise up more leaders to lead their families and the congregations of the church. Lord prepare us for your coming that we are ready to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord Bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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