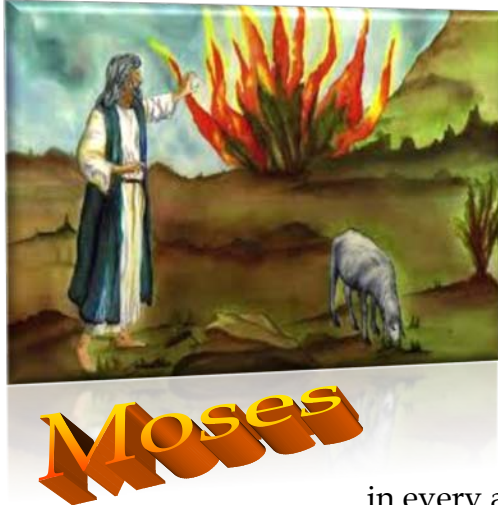


If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses; He is faithful in all my house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the LORD (Jesus Christ), Num 12:6-8.



But what happened to the same Moses? It is interesting note from the believer's perspective because we the Children of Christ often face situations like the one that Moses had faced at Meribah (Numbers 20:12). This incident was very important because Aaron died after this event and the leader of the congregation was justified for his action. Brothers and Sisters, Our God is just right

in every aspect; because of God's grace (Jesus) many times we are surviving though we misbehave with God worst than these two great leaders of Israel. **Love and faith** are the two key elements one must possess in order to get connected to the heavenly system from this sinful world. If we carefully study the life of Moses, he did not have both (Love & Faith) in the beginning (Exodus 3:3, 7). He went near to the bush to see the wonder. Later we read in the next chapter (4:10), Moses physically quantified his personality. Further he had still argued with God almighty. Therefore, God had to perform miracles in front of him to show his mighty power (Exodus 4: 4-9). Even after seeing all the miracles, Moses had a double mind in accepting the offer or not. He had openly disagreed with God on his candidature (4: 13). Moses believed that God could do miracles; in fact he had seen them on his own eyes. But he did not develop the required faith for God's love that God would perform the same miracles in his life. Do you also think in the similar line like Moses? Remember that still God



had selected Moses for his mission. What were the qualities of Moses made God to select him?

Obedience in disobedience is the major reason. Moses initially read the physical information of the bush. In the wilderness there were many bushes; however one was burning but still not becoming ashes. So, it had motivated his eyes first; for which his mind responded positively. Any physical information naturally does not guarantee obedience. For example consider the case of Eve, after reading the physical information of the tree of good & bad and its fruit, she disobeyed God's commands of life. In contrast, the moment Lord of Angel told Moses that he was standing on a holy place; Moses responded instantly by closing his face fearing to God. It was the perfect moment that God had qualified the God fearing nature embedded in Moses. However God could not quantify his nature. No one get's quantified on their own or with self behaviors without implementing God's commands in their lives. Therefore God measures someone's quality based on quantification.

qualification : measure of faith (righteousness)

quantification : respect and honor the principles of God (Holiness)



In the beginning, Moses believed in his personalities; so he was unable to come out of his free will. Unless someone submits the free will, God cannot perform in their life. Exactly same thing had happened in the wilderness, when Moses met first time God. Moses started God's mission unknowingly when he was in the palace of King Pharaoh. He took the initiative to bring justice for an Israelite by killing an Egyptian. God had observed this; but allowed Moses to go through some learning. Why? Moses was grown up in a royal and sophisticated environment; but the job God had kept for him was shepherd. So, God permitted Moses to get trained in taking care of flocks in wilderness.

God had considered Moses for the job because of the following:

- Self-initiative by not accepting the injustice, practiced against Israelites which was in total agreement with God.
- Moses had God fearing nature and dedicated to God's word
- As an individual he was a good believer.
- Initially he showed disobedience, but his faith had grown gradually through interaction with God and he spiritually submitted to God's call.

Similarly we must take initiatives in our faithful lives and most importantly need to be a good believer of God's word to grow in faith.

What is growing faith?

God almighty had trained Moses systematically so that he would become a matured leader to guide nearly a 2 million peoples. Let us carefully look at the miracles that were performed in front of King Pharaoh. The magicians of Egypt could not continue their performance after a while, though they had done something initially. Here we understand that how God had educated his children as well as taught lessons to their enemies. Why did the magicians unable to create life from the dust of the earth? This clearly brings out the demarcation between the creator and the soul destroyer.

What are lice? Lice are the creatures that take blood as the food from blooded creatures like us. Through a close examination we understand the following points.

- The magicians of Egypt were the disciples of Satan working for King Pharaoh



- Satan was against the mission that God had undertaken
- By transformation, Satan could send his evil spirits to animals' bodies (stick becoming snakes); but could not consume the spirit because Satan is a non-consuming spirit personality; but our God almighty is the consuming Fire (Hebrew 12:29)
- Transforming water into blood is adding color into it; it has nothing to do with creation
- Bringing already created lives (frogs) from water to land is attracting their bodies with his evil spirits/or demons' help; indeed it had polluted the environment (bad smell)

God had permitted all these false miracles to show his children that Satan could only do this kind of illusion. He may inject evil spirits into the existing lives to spoil and pollute their nature and could not consume their feelings later.



Then God almighty had demonstrated His ability as a creator; this was not the process of transforming the spirit but to create a new life from the non-living substance (dust). The beauty here was that God had clearly shown from the cursed earth all that would come out first were the bad lice. Therefore salvation is must for humans and that was the mission God had undertaken in which His children were the part. This had helped Moses and Aaron to pose a strong faith on God Almighty. In fact after this incident the style of functioning and speaking of both had taken a dramatic change. Their faith started growing in God's word. They started believing that God would deliver Israelites from their bondages in Egypt. A growing faith needs testing, why? Further reading of Exodus (Chapters 8 to 12) will give more information about the mighty miracles of God. Now the multitude had begun moving out of Egypt and it was time for their faith to be tested. They came to a halt in front of Red Sea. Behind them the armies of King Pharaoh

with all their might, full of angry. Imagine the situation and see how Moses had responded here. Exodus 14: 13 reads like this: Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which he will work for you today." Here we see a Moses with almost in a matured stage; a fruit yielding stage. There are few points we learn from this situation.

- Moses totally believed God while his faith was put into test; believers' faith needs testing
- Moses wanted God to tell him now what next to be done; prayer brings answer through an established relation
- God gave Moses full authority in his holy name to perform the miracle; believers act on behalf of God
- God sanctifies His name by bringing the judgment on His enemies

Brothers and Sisters, we must understand the reason why God wants to put us into spiritual testing. Basically His name has to be sanctified in our life so that we act on behalf of Him on this earth. Therefore testing of our faith is to sanctify God in our life. What does it mean to a believer; how do we sanctify a sanctifier?



God is who really sanctifies the sinners (us) of this world. We read in Scriptures that sanctification means expressing the faith on God's word (His Principles) in front of non-believers. Exactly Moses and Aaron were caught in the same situation at Meribah where the Israelites asked for water. Besides they were shouting and showing disrespect to their leaders. Indeed in a similar situation earlier Moses had received water from the rock by the grace of God (Exodus 17:2-7).

There Moses was asked by God to strike the rock to bring the water spring. Let us examine this case, in which God was happy with Moses.

- ❖ Moses believed God that He had a solution for their problem; so he prayed first
- ❖ He had witnessed God in front of the multitude and their chiefs by obeying His commands (strike the rock)
- ❖ He had also made a testament by naming that place as Massah (testing) and Meribah (confrontation)

In the second time, when Moses and Aaron went to God, He gave them the instructions and promised them that they would bring water for the Israelite community to drink. So these two followed as God told; they gathered the multitude in front of the rock but Moses spoke unfaithfully: "Listen, you rebels, must we (He and his brother) bring you water out of this rock?". Since Moses forgot the God's promise, everything went against these two great servants of God almighty. They did not perform what God wanted them to do; instead of speaking to the rock, Moses did strike the rock twice; of course God did His part as promised; water come out the rock; behold these two believers could not sanctify God with their behaviors.

Let us compare these two incidents and closely examine what went wrong with Moses & Aaron.

Sl.	Situation 1		Situation 2
1.	Problem	Water shortage or no water situation	Water shortage or no water situation
2.	Intensity of the Problem	Life saving problem; righteous; must be solved	Life saving problem; righteous must be solved
3.	Peoples' approach	Shouting, chaotic, against the leaders; of course against God total disbelief (Satanic)	Shouting, chaotic, against leaders and God, total disbelief (Satanic)
4.	Response	Went to God with faith; but	Moses went to God with faith;

	from leaders	Moses alone prayed to God	took his brother Aaron (this situation resembles Adam & Eve to us)
5.	Solution	God told Moses to take some chiefs (believers); remember these chiefs had got opportunity (Exodus 24:1) to see the glory of God in later stage because they had posed faith on God's word here along with Moses; Moses was with believers	God asked Moses to go with Aaron; only two to follow God's commands
6.	Action	Strike the rock	Speak to the rock
7.	Performance	Moses did what God asked him to do in front of the believers; water spring came out of the rock	Moses did not do what God told him to do; still water spring came out of the rock

Therefore what had happened to Moses; who was the respecter of principles of God. Let us rewind his life little back and remember what Moses had told God at the beginning of his invitation (Exodus 4:10): "**O Lord I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue**".



In order to respect the self-belief of Moses, God gave him Aaron as a working partner; otherwise Aaron had no specific role with God's plan initially. In the first time God told Moses to take few chiefs with him;

that means God had selected them as believers. However, in the second time Moses was asked to go with his brother. We learn many things from these two incidents. Let us describe them carefully.

- Aaron had no specific role in the original plan of God. God wanted only one physical partner to carry out His mission in the physical world. But Moses did not trust God totally in the beginning; he behaved in a way that made God to feel that Moses was looking for a physical relation rather than completely depending upon the spiritual God to carry out the proposed mission. So God gave Aaron as a partner.
- God wanted to righteously judge Moses & Aaron. Aaron had failed two times to sanctify God during the mission. This gives us the similar picture of failures of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God knew this fact and therefore wanted only one from this world for Him to execute a mission.
- In the wilderness, Aaron succumbed to the pressure tactic of multitude and had fabricated a golden calf for them to worship; as an individual he failed to have faith in God almighty. But this incident clearly showed his level of faith under stress. He did not live up to the expectation; He was fearful and wanted to save his life by not respecting the principle of God.
- Second time, Aaron was asked to go with Moses to the rock. Aaron had clearly heard the voice of the Lord along with Moses. His duty was to speak to the multitude on behalf of Moses. But we learn from this Meribah incident that Moses spoke unfaithfully to the Israelites and stroked twice the rock with the staff; it means after the first strike either Moses or Aaron realized that they were on the wrong side. Aaron had definitely failed in his role to render the necessary help at the critical juncture.



- Moses realized his mistake of having an unfaithful companion because it caused him dearly to lose the precious gift; that was entering the promising land.
- Today we make friends who don't have any role in our spiritual life; miserably we face failures in our faithful life.
- Believers give many roles for non-believers in their lives, who do not have any faith in salvation; so they miserably fail.
- Preachers bring their family members into Church activities, where they do not have any role like Aaron; so some time they miserably miss the specified marks.

We can keep telling such relations in the world which are the potential facts for most of the spiritual failures.

How do we conclude this discussion?

- Aaron was unnecessary additive element in the set, where Moses was the multiplicative identity element.
- In the original plan, God wanted to be the multiplication identity and expected Moses as an additive identity.
- The experiments of both the physical elements (two humans: Man/Woman) as identity multiplicative and identity additive have miserably faced problems because of their disbelief in the word of God.
- So, God had sent His word as an identity multiplicative and used two additive elements to form a divine set. But the moment the mission work started, the two additive elements were made independent, separated for their worldly nature (Mary started normal life with Joseph). Jesus had never identified Himself with Mary & Joseph; that was one of major reasons for His successful mission. He made a partnership only with God almighty, His father during the missionary period. What about you? Make Jesus as partner in your life, who is reliable.



Amen, Praise the Lord.