



# Lessons for Leaders

Biblical Principles for Successful Leadership

MINISTERING TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE



## “Who, Me?”

### **What We Can Learn from Faithless Responses to God’s Call to Be a Leader**

*The Bible reveals that God often uses the unlikely to achieve the impossible. When He did this in the lives of Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah, they all needed to turn their unbelief and self-doubt into faith in God in order to succeed.*

The stories of Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah should be instructive in convincing us that God knows what He is doing when He calls the otherwise unqualified to do great things for Him. The issue is never whether or not we feel adequate in ourselves, but whether or not we will trust God to give us the grace we will need. And the answer which He will always give us is: “My grace is sufficient for thee” (II Corinthians 12:9 KJV).

#### **THE STORY OF MOSES** - Exodus 3:1-12a; Exodus 4:10-13 (NAS):

<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup> Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire

## Scriptures OF THE WEEK



*“Who is sufficient for these things?”*

II Corinthians 2:16b (ESV)

*“Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.”*

II Corinthians 3:4-56 (ESV)

*“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”*

Philippians 4:13 (NAS)



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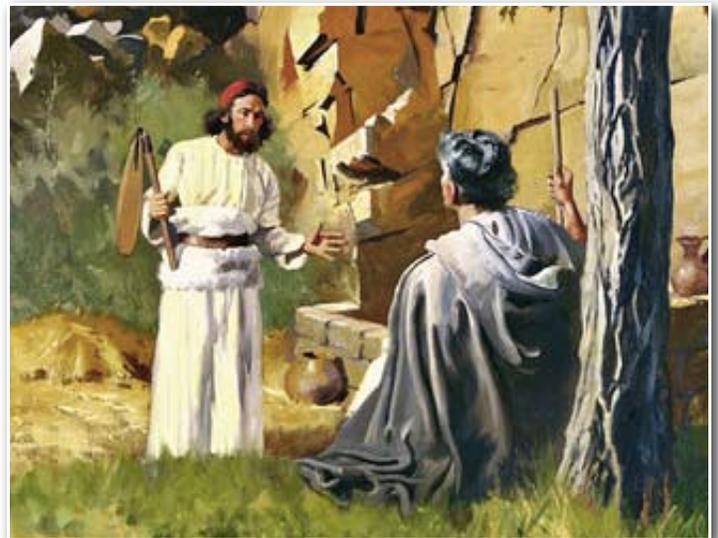


from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> So Moses said, “I must turn aside now and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.” <sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>5</sup> Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good

and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. <sup>9</sup> Now, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> And He said, “Certainly I will be with you...” Exodus 3:1-12a (NAS)

<sup>4</sup> <sup>10</sup> Then Moses said to the Lord, “Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past, nor since You have spoken to Your servant; for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?” <sup>12</sup> Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say. But he said, “Please, Lord, now send the message by whomever You will.” Exodus 4:10-13 (NAS)



### THE STORY OF GIDEON - Judges 6:1-16 (NAS):

<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup> Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hands of Midian seven years. <sup>2</sup> The power of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of Midian the sons of Israel made for themselves the dens which were in the mountains and the caves and the

## NOTES

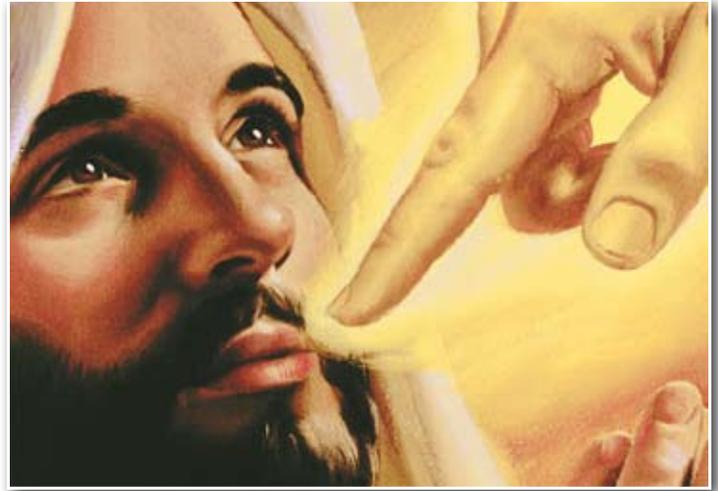




strongholds. <sup>3</sup>For it was when Israel had sown, that the Midianites would come up with the Amalekites and the sons of the east and go against them. <sup>4</sup>So they would camp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel as well as no sheep, ox, or donkey. <sup>5</sup>For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, they would come in like locusts for number, both they and their camels were innumerable; and they came into the land to devastate it. <sup>6</sup>So Israel was brought very low because of Midian, and the sons of Israel cried to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on account of Midian, <sup>8</sup>that the Lord sent a prophet to the sons of Israel, and he said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘It was I who brought you up from Egypt and brought you out from the house of slavery. <sup>9</sup>I delivered you from the hands of the Egyptians and from the hands of all your oppressors, and dispossessed them before you and gave you their land, <sup>10</sup> and I said to you, “I am the Lord your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But you have not obeyed Me.” <sup>11</sup> Then the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press in order to save it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup> The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.” <sup>13</sup> Then Gideon said to him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” <sup>14</sup> The Lord looked at him and said, “Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?” <sup>15</sup> He said to Him, “O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father’s house.” <sup>16</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat Midian as one man.” Judges 6:1-16 (NAS)

### THE STORY OF JEREMIAH - Jeremiah 1:3-19 (NAS):

**1** <sup>3</sup>It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah,



king of Judah, until the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, until the exile of Jerusalem in the fifth month.

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
And before you were born I consecrated you;  
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Alas, Lord God!

Behold, I do not know how to speak,  
Because I am a youth.”

<sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’  
Because everywhere I send you, you shall go,  
And all that I command you, you shall speak.

<sup>8</sup>“Do not be afraid of them,

For I am with you to deliver you,” declares the Lord.

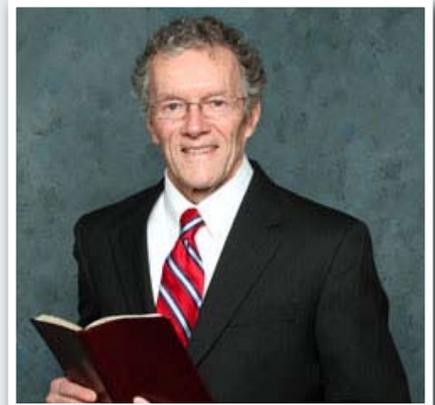
<sup>9</sup>Then the Lord stretched out His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.



<sup>10</sup>“See, I have appointed you this day over the nations  
and over the kingdoms,  
To pluck up and to break down,  
To destroy and to overthrow,  
To build and to plant.”

<sup>11</sup> The word of the Lord came to me saying, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” And I said, “I see a rod of an almond tree.” <sup>12</sup> Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.”

<sup>13</sup> The word of the Lord came to me a second time saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.” <sup>14</sup> Then the Lord said to me, “Out of the north the evil will break forth on all the inhabitants of the land. <sup>15</sup> For, behold, I am calling all the families of the kingdoms of the north,” declares the Lord; “and they will come and they will set each one his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its walls round about and against all the cities of Judah. <sup>16</sup> I will pronounce My judgments on them concerning all their wickedness, whereby they have forsaken Me and have offered sacrifices to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. <sup>17</sup> Now, gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them, or I will dismay you before them. <sup>18</sup> Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you,” declares the Lord.” Jeremiah 1:3-19 (NAS)



PASTOR DALE WALKER, CHAPLAIN

## Greetings!

One of my jobs is to provide spiritual support, Biblical counsel, and a pastoral presence to members of the State Legislature.

I have served as a Chaplain for Hudson Valley Community College, the Albany Patroons basketball team, and the Albany County Jail. I am currently Director of Programs at the Capital City Rescue Mission. I have found that people from all walks of life can benefit from a personal relationship with God and a knowledge of the Bible.

## Scripture for the Day

How would you like to start your day with an inspirational thought or an encouraging Scripture to help you stay close to God? If you send me the best e-mail address through which to reach you, you will find spiritual encouragement waiting for you every morning to help you begin your day with God! Just email me at [Dale@NewYorkFamilies.org](mailto:Dale@NewYorkFamilies.org) or “like” my Facebook page called “Legislative Bible Study,” and you will begin receiving the “SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY” right away.



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