

Family Matters

October 2008

New Life: A community of neighbors, for neighbors

Loving, Instructing, Mending, Sending

Jesus' plan for humanity has always been to use people as His instruments of healing. The New Life Community is called to be participants with Him in loving people into relationship with Him unto wholeness in life that reflects His triumph over death, disease, and decay. He calls fallible, imperfect humans to be His instruments of wholeness -the paradox of this thought is often the basis for the lie that says that we are disqualified from service to others. Moses is a great example to us of how our willingness to be used, coupled with God's empowering grace result in the advancement of Jesus' rule being experienced in and through our lives.

Whenever God purposes to love people through people there is the need of qualifying and capacitating grace. When God called the first generation of His people to escape from Egypt, he used a fallible man named Moses to speak His Word to them.

"You have seen what I did to Egypt and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to me. If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you'll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you're special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation."
Ex 19:4-6

When Moses spoke these amazing grace-filled words to Israel, he didn't speak as one who had it all together, he simply, and with great hesitation, repeated the words God told him to say. Feeling hesitant and unworthy about being used is not a sign that we are disqualified, but rather the revelation that we need God's empowering grace. Another imperfection of Moses' life that we would often associate with disqualification was his temper. After being told by God that He wanted to display His faithfulness to Israel by providing water for them directly out of a solid rock, Moses' temper and impatience moved him to slap the rock three times instead of once as directed by the Lord. His shortcoming resulted in discipline, but the

Lord still caused the water to flow through this imperfect man. (Num.20:8-12) In fact, at the end of Moses life, the Lord said of him:

*“...no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt — to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.”
Deut 34:10-12 NIV*

As a community that strives to live as neighbors, Moses gives us a great pattern of how to live out our mission. Fallibility and imperfection don't disqualify us from being used, rather our need provides the seed bed for the miraculous. It is God's heart to take willing people and empower them through His Holy Spirit and His Word for the service of love one to another that display His splendor to a world of people.

“They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.” Isa 61:3 NIV

May we become living displays of the Lord's great grace.

Pastor Dave