



Sermon Series: Promises We Can Count On

To be used with Session 4: God's Promise to Make a Holy Nation

Sermon Title Possibilities: "Made" To Lead

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-8

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study "Promises We Can Count On," this sermon examines how God secures the masses, stimulates the leader, and seeks commitment before proceeding with a divine plan. In Exodus Chapter 19, Moses stands prepared to lead, armed with an administrative plan devised by his father-in-law Jethro in Exodus Chapter 18. With a structured system in place, Moses can receive from God and continue to hear from Him. However, before progress can proceed, there must be a firm commitment from the people. While Moses is fully invested, he must ensure direction from God and commitment from the children of Israel. This sermon looks into how God communicates with His people, establishes expectations, and waits for the commitment of participants before advancing in His work.

Introduction: In 1775, Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first postmaster general, marking the beginning of a long tradition of men and women carrying messages through the United States Postal Service. While the content of these postal messages vary, the fundamental operation remains consistent: there is a message to be delivered and a potential response to be received. At its core, this is the essence of the United States Post Office. Similarly, Moses played a crucial role as a messenger between God and the children of Israel. His responsibility of conveying messages back and forth held significant consequences that could alter the course of history for an entire nation. Within the text, we witness Moses operating as the sole intermediary between God and the children of Israel, bearing the weight of delivering messages that could mean life or death (Exodus 19:1-8). As we explore God's method of communication with the children of Israel, we also observe parallels in how He communicates with us today. Firstly, God secures the people, ensuring their safety and well-being. Then, He inspires and empowers a leader, equipping them to effectively convey His message. Finally, He seeks a commitment from those who receive His message, urging them to respond in faith and obedience. This sermon aims to help leaders understand how to effectively communicate God's

message and inspire a committed response. Each step, illustrated in the text, is critical for transformation and divine support.

Secures the Masses (Exodus 19:1-2).

After a visit with his father-in-law Jethro, Moses devised a strategy to communicate with the people of Israel without draining himself or them, following Jethro's wise counsel. By implementing Jethro's advice, Moses found rest and ease, enabling him to attentively listen to the voice of God as he led the Israelites and prepared to deliver the Ten Commandments. As the children of Israel journeyed through the wilderness for an extended period, they found themselves encamped in front of a mountain. Here, God positioned themselves with intentionality, securing the masses in preparation for communication with Moses. This strategic pause marked a significant transition from their time in Egypt—a land of prolonged oppression—to their current state as wanderers seeking the home God had ordained for them. This deliberate halt before the mountain served multiple purposes. Not only did it provide a rest from the journey, but it also safeguarded them from potential attacks and unexpected threats posed by enemies. Thus, in this moment, God ensured their safety while facilitating communication with Moses, underscoring the importance of both protection and effective communication.

- **Stimulates the Leader (Exodus 19:3-6).**

In these passages of scripture, Moses is called to the mountaintop by the Lord. There, God imparts to Moses a reminder of His strength and power, recounting His past deeds in verse four, including the deliverance of the children of Egypt on eagle's wings. God emphasizes the importance of keeping the covenant for the ongoing relationship between Himself and the children of Israel. Moses is also entrusted with a profound message from God to convey to the people, highlighting the divine leadership intended for the children of Israel. While Moses serves as the undershepherd, it is God who ultimately directs and guides. This underscores the critical role of Moses in maintaining a right relationship with God to ensure the safety and well-being of the entire community. The text emphasizes the significance of proper communication between Moses and the children of Israel, as relayed by God. Failure to accurately convey God's message carries serious consequences, putting the future of the children of Israel at risk. God's specificity in His instructions to Moses underscores the importance of obedience and character in spiritual leadership. Today, spiritual leaders must embody obedience and integrity, faithfully delivering God's message and upholding His promises. By rightly dividing the word of truth (2

Timothy 2:15), spiritual leaders facilitate the communication of God's messages to His people, ensuring blessings for those who remain faithful to the Lord.

- **Seeks the Commitment (Exodus 19:7-8).**

In verses 7 and 8, God demonstrates that the covenant relationship is reciprocal. He emphasizes Moses's responsibility to effectively communicate His messages to the children of Israel and to secure their agreement to follow His ways. This interaction resembles that of a sports agent negotiating between an organization and a player to solidify a deal for their relationship, although this analogy falls short in capturing the significance of God's communication, Moses' role is significant and matters to God. After returning from God, Moses gathers the elders of the people and presents to them all the words that the Lord had commanded him. This moment is pivotal, as it marks the initiation of a covenant relationship between the children of Israel and God. Each word spoken carries weight, as the people are on the cusp of receiving the Ten Commandments. Their covenant relationship begins with acknowledgment, as they affirm in verse number 8, stating, "We will do all that the Lord has spoken." Following this declaration, Moses brings their response back to the Lord, signifying their commitment to uphold the covenant. This exchange underscores the importance of mutual agreement and communication in maintaining a faithful relationship with God.

Conclusion:

I am reminded of the faith I had in my twin brother as he prepared to jump his bicycle over three people. I was confident in the sturdiness of the ramp and his speed, believing he could easily accomplish the feat. However, some of my friends doubted and refused to be the third person to lay underneath the ramp. Committed to the belief in my brother's capabilities, I volunteered to be the third person. And indeed, my brother successfully made the jump over us. Similarly, as believers, we must be fully committed and dedicated to our faith. God required a commitment from the children of Israel, and it is the same commitment we must uphold. Mere words are not enough; we must be fully engaged with our lives for Him.

Author Bio

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