

Moses – A Leader Who Wasn't Afraid Of Change
Exodus 18:11-27

Introduction:

1. The church is a living body – the body of Christ.
 - “*Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*”
1 Corinthians 12:27
 - “*For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*”
Ephesians 5:30
2. Because of this, growth should be a very natural part of the church. Bodies are supposed to grow.
 - “*In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.*” **Ephesians 2:21**
 - “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*” **1 Peter 2:2**
3. But there is no growth without change. In Romans 12:2, the key word is “*transformed.*”
 - This is true in our personal lives and in the church’s life.
 - **Illustration:** The church at Jerusalem – The seeds of this local assembly began in Acts 1 with a 120 people meeting in an upper room. By the end of Acts 2, there are over 3,000 new members.
 - By necessity, they had to change some things. To begin with, a meeting place. 120 is a lot different than 3,000.
 - **Illustration of our church:** We began in a clubhouse, moved to Beville Road, expanded the church building, moved to Clyde Morris, went from meeting in the educational building to the current auditorium, etc.
4. Therefore, leaders and churches must learn to embrace change – not just tolerate it, but embrace it.
 - If there is no growth, there is no change. If there is no change, there is no growth.
5. Let’s examine an event in Moses’ life and see how we can become people who learn to embrace change.

First, by realizing that principles stay the same, but methods will constantly change

1. In our text, what was the guiding principle? The needs of the people must be met. This was the guiding principle and would stay the same.
2. But, under Jethro’s advice, Moses changed the method. Instead of personally trying to meet everyone’s needs, he began using other able men (vs. 21) and worked through them.
 - He didn’t have a standard approach. The principle stayed the same, but the method changed.
 - Jesus did this constantly. He used all kinds of different methods to reach out to people.

3. As a church, we are to reach people with the gospel of Christ. This is the principle. But there are different methods we can employ to do this. We are fishers of men.
 - **Illustration:** Fishing – the principle is to catch fish, but there is seldom a standard approach. There are all kinds of different bait and different ways of catching fish.

Second, by refusing to fall in love with forms (the way we've always done it), but rather focus on function

1. What exactly is a “form?” We aren't talking about a piece of paper. It's not that kind of form.
 - A “form” is a non-biblical tradition that many people come to love and embrace. Many churches cling to forms (worship times, choir, how we do the offering, shaking hands, Sunday School, invitation, hymns, style of music, clothes we wear, pews, church buildings, etc.).
2. There is nothing wrong with any of these things in and of themselves, but a potential problem can develop.
 - Many times our “forms” bind us and keep us from functioning. Matthew 15:1-6
3. Back to our text. What was Moses' form? Moses would sit from morning until evening and attempt to meet everyone's needs (vs. 13-16). This is the way they always did it!
 - What was the problem? Their “form” was keeping them from functioning efficiently. vs. 17-18
 - Moses' form may have worked at one time, but as the nation of Israel grew, it was no longer functional, practical, or workable.
 - If they had clung to form rather than function, Moses would have worn out and the people's needs would not have been met. Do you think this ever happens in churches today?