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MOSES AS A LEADER AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CONTEMPORARY
NIGERIAN BAPTIST CONVENTION PASTORS

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ABSTRACT

The onus of this thesis is to set out to critically examine the life of Moses and all that were embedded in his leadership role while Israel sets out of Egypt and his pictures on the pages of the Scripture as a leader aside from the Pentateuch. Also, to point these out in order to cause a stimulus in the ministry of the contemporary pastors of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

This work was carried out through library research by carefully delving into the historical background and the ministerial life of Moses. Further research was done on the exemplary qualities Moses possessed as a leader and the challenges involved especially in the usage of the staff of God which in Biblical terms is often referred to as the staff of Moses.

The writer found out that moral laxity, prayerlessness, selfish approach to the ministry, ignorance about the call of a pastor (a pastor's calling), lack of commitment to the study of God's Word, pride and arrogance in ministry, the fear of tomorrow and the misuse of the authority of a leader; all bring about failure in the lives and ministries of contemporary pastors of the Nigerian Baptist Convention. However, with the qualities discovered in the life of Moses, it would be of benefit towards church growth and fulfilment in ministry of the contemporary pastors if imbibed and emulated. Since this thesis is a library research work, further research studies could be done concerning the life of Moses and on other biblical characters that have exemplary qualities to be emulated and to expound the scope of theological education in Nigeria to enable a person to specialize on leadership development.

5.2. CONCLUSION

Mahatma Ghandi was never the president of his country, India, but his life exerted an enormous and lasting influence upon people. He did not have to lobby for a job or positions, neither did he impose his opinions on others. People came to him for advice because they looked up to him as a leader with proven integrity. Mother Teresa became world-renowned for her humble service to others. She was physically diminutive and she shunned position and wealth, yet she was an honoured guest among world leaders and carried a moral authority around the world that few could match. Positive, enduring influence comes from ending a leadership career as well as it was begun. In other words, it comes through integrity. Often leaders lose their influence because of the poor way they ended their official leadership positions (Henry & Richard, 284).

Considering the way Moses stood in the place of his calling as a leader of a new nation and diligently occupying this very prominent position in the history of the Israelites by doing what God assigned him to do without shifting focus; it is therefore necessary for the contemporary pastors in the Nigerian Baptist Convention to also stay in the area of their callings and do the work God placed in their hands faithfully. Moses was a prophet who related with God so intimately that he left a legacy for anyone who occupies or desires to occupy leadership position in any generation (cf. Num. 12:3-8). Though he has his own human weaknesses, his integrity no doubt enhanced his usefulness and relevance in the hand of Yahweh (Akintola, 40).

It is pertinent to note that ministers must see themselves as representatives of God and be so ready to make positive impact in both their local churches and the community and ultimately in the nation. They should embrace Jesus' philosophy of

servant-leadership in their ministry, for this is the ministers' vocation. The contemporary pastor must be first of all the servant of Jesus Christ and prepared to speak with the authority of the gospel delivered to us in Jesus Christ.

The researcher considered it pertinent to cite the words of an anonymous poet with the hope that the contemporary pastors would imbibe these illustrative words and daily recite them in their hearts for them to be exemplary leaders:

Let me be a little kinder
 Let me be a little blinder
 To the faults of those about me
 Let me praise a little more

Let me be when I am weary
 Just a little bit more cherry
 Let me serve a little better
 Those that I am striving for

Let me be a little braver
 When temptation bids me waver
 Let me strive a little harder
 To be all that I should be

Let me be a little meeker
 With the brother that is weaker
 Let me think more of my neighbour
 And a little less of me

Let me be a little sweeter
 Make my life a bit completer;
 Keep me faithful to my duty
 Every minute of the day

Let me toil without complaining
 Not a humble task disdaining:
 Let me face the summons calmly
 When death beckons me away (Lee Tan, 984).

If the contemporary pastor would embrace all the words which brings value into a leaders life as revealed in the above lines, he would help himself/herself and the

people God has assigned him to lead. With this in the mind of the contemporary pastor, he/she would strive in making his/her calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10)

5.3. RECOMMENDATIONS

With all the things that have been discovered in the leadership role of Moses, the following recommendations are made:

First, Pastors of the Nigerian Baptist Convention should be ready to walk with the one who called them to the ministry in order to be able to know His mind for the work He has committed into their hands. The notion of 'I have arrived' should not be their paramount concern but they should be more humble to 'Follow the Master' in order to 'Serve the Master' and in doing this 'Having the Mind of Christ.'

Secondly, there should not be negligence in pastors coming together to share their ministerial experiences and thereby sharpening one another. This could start at the 'Associational level' to the 'Conferences' and ultimately, the 'Convention.'

Also, Various theological institutions of the Nigerian Baptist Convention like the NBTS, Ogbomoso; Baptist College of Theology, Oyo; Baptist College of Theology, Lagos; Baptist College of Theology, Benin; Baptist College of Theology, Igede Ekiti; Baptist College of Theology, Obinze; Baptist Theological Seminary, Eku; Baptist Pastors' School, Gombi; Baptist Pastors' School, Lamingo Via Jos; and Baptist Seminary Kaduna; should endeavour to be visiting their products in order to know how they are fairing on the field and to constructively criticise or check some of their lapses in love.

Furthermore, these institutions should come together under one umbrella to organize leadership programmes for all the Convention pastors and try to zone these programmes to allow all to participate and benefit from. Likewise, Convention pastors

should make efforts to regularly release communiqué which would address the moral decadence observed in the ministry of some of them and also in the community from time to time. This would curb some excesses and help the pastors to help themselves; “Iron sharpens iron” (Prov. 27:17).

Lastly, Baptist pastors should be encouraged to do thorough studies on biblical characters which would help them know how to become a model for up-coming believers in their churches and their communities as well as young ministers.’ With these recommendations, it is hoped that the Convention will have adequate pastors that are well furnished unto good works and well groomed to overcome some of the problems of leadership.