

Management Advice from Moses?

Exodus 17:1-7

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Personally, I am not convinced that we should distill our general management principles from the Bible, just like we do not get our medical advice from the Bible, or our advice about how to best play football. However, I was lately greatly helped when reading a story from the life of Moses. Though the Bible is not the primary source for modern management instructions, I came across some helpful gems!

Moses, leader of the nation of Israel, was in a very difficult situation. He was unable to ensure enough water for the nation, so the people rebelled against him. Problems all around! The Israelites quarreled with Moses for having led them into a situation a drought. What did Moses do? I should immediately copyright this; seven management ideas from Moses:

1. Moses **PRAYED** to God: A wise act for anyone in problems, including managers. Often forgotten though.
2. God told him to **WALK AND GO**: In a time of problems it is dangerous to 'sit'. Do not become lethargic when a crisis hits.
3. Moses had to walk **AHEAD OF THE PEOPLE**: Let your staff see that you take action. This is important for maintaining confidence.
4. He had to also take with him **SOME OF THE ELDERS**: Senior management must be involved in taking responsibility and in finding solutions.
5. Moses had to take the **STAFF** in his hand: This symbolized his authority and how God had helped previously. In a time of crisis, remind oneself and others that you have had similar issues in the past, and that you solved them.
6. Moses had to **STRIKE** the rock: In times of crisis, it is of utmost importance to take decisive action and not delay the action that must be taken.
7. Moses **CALLED THE PLACE** Massah and Meribah: after a problem is solved, evaluate the problems and the solution and create lasting memories. This helps management in future periods of problems.