

WA5, How God Organizes People for Effective Action

Throughout much of history God has organized His people for effective action in ministry. We can read many Old Testament accounts when God frequently used every day regular people for His great works. This was done from a job design through the work that needed to be done, the worker that puts His plan into action, and the workplace in which the action is to be done. He also organized His workers through an arrangement of grouping and sorting to then assign the work to be done. This is the model that Moses used in Exodus when leading God's people out of Egypt and again in the first few chapters of Numbers. When we put ourselves into God's organizational structure we can be utilized for His purposes in effective ministry.

First, God has given all of us work to be done. Ultimately we know that this work is for the collective good for those who love God (Rom 8.28), but it should be comforting to know that God has prepared for us, work to be done (Ephesians 2:10). The word work is mentioned over 500 times in scripture and we can look at Moses as an example. We can see that Moses was given the work of leading God's people out of Egypt (Ex 3.10), and that he was to be the judge for God's people (Ex 18.13).

Next, God has chosen each of us to be a worker. For His actions on earth to be fulfilled effectively, God uses a variety of gifts He has given each of us (1 Cor 12.1-31), but it takes the chosen person to do the assigned work. Many times we will not feel qualified to do the assigned work. Moses was assigned to be a spokesman for a nation, yet we know from Exodus 4.10 that Aaron his brother often spoke for him. Often this is how we see ourselves and not how God sees our ability to do the chosen work.

In addition to the work and worker, God uses a workplace to accomplish His means. Four hundred and eighty years after Moses led God's people out of Egypt, work

on building of the temple began (1 Kings 6.1). The workplace, carefully chosen by God, was extremely important. A workplace does not always have to be a building site like the temple. In Exodus, Moses utilized, selected, and organized many workers into workplaces in chapter 18.17-27.

Finally, two years after Moses had led the Israelites out of Egypt, God had him arrange, group, and sort God's people for the work that needed to be done. Moses did this by first taking a census of all the families and tribes of Israel (Num 1). Moses then sorted all His people into family groups (tribes) except one, the Levites, according to God's instructions (Num 2.33), and then proceeded to appoint the Levites specific tasks, which needed to be done.

Through this structure of job description (work, workers, and workplace) and organization (arranging, grouping, and sorting), Moses, through God's instruction, was able to complete the work, which he was also assigned. By using Moses as an example, we can put ourselves into effective action and be used by God in ministry.