

Leadership Text Study

Participation and Teamsmanship

Source Sheet by David Reinhart

Principle 2: No one can lead alone. Seven times in Genesis 1, we hear the word *tov*, “good.” Only twice in the whole Torah does the phrase *lo tov*, “not good,” appear. The first is when God says, “It is not good for man to be alone.” The second is when Yitro sees his son-in-law Moses leading alone, and says, “What you are doing is not good.” We cannot live alone. We cannot lead alone. Leadership is teamsmanship.

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks¹

- How do we lead with other people? Challenges? Benefits? Qualities?

At the end of his life, Moses recognized one great failure of his leadership. He had taken the Israelites out of Egypt, but he hadn't taken Egypt out of the Israelites. He had changed his people's fate, but he hadn't changed their character. He now realized that for this to happen there would have to be a different kind of leadership, one that handed back responsibility to the people as a whole, and to the elders in particular. So long as there is a Moses performing miracles, the people do not have to accept responsibility for themselves. In order for them to grow, Joshua would have to engage in participative leadership, encouraging diverse views and listening to them, even if that meant going more slowly.

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks²

- What is the difference between Moses' task and Joshua's task as leaders?
- Why must their leadership styles differ? What are the impacts of their respective styles?

Exodus 14:15-16

(15) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. (16) And you lift up your rod and hold out your arm over the sea and split it, so that the Israelites may march into the sea on dry ground.

שמות י"ד:ט"ו-ט"ז

(טו) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה מַה־תִּצְעַק אֵלַי דְּבַר אֶל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּסְעוּ: (טז) וְאַתָּה הִרְגֵם אֶת־מִטְּוֶה וְנָטָה אֶת־יָדְךָ עַל־הַיָּם וּבִקַּעְהוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּתוֹךְ הַיָּם בַּיַּבֵּשׁה:

Joshua 1:1-2

(1) After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' attendant: (2) “My servant Moses is dead. Prepare to cross the Jordan, together with all this people, into the land that I am giving to the Israelites.

יהושע א' א'-ב'

(א) וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בֶּן־נֹון מְשֻׁרֵת מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: (ב) מֹשֶׁה עֶבְדִּי מָת וְעַתָּה לְיוֹם עָבַר אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן הַזֶּה אַתָּה וְכָל־הָעָם הַזֶּה אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי נֹתֵן לָהֶם לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

¹ (<http://rabbisacks.org/seven-principles-of-jewish-leadership-written-for-the-adam-science-foundation-leadership-programme/>)

² via Rabbi Barry Leff's Source Sheet (<https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/35344>)