



Sunday School- September 6, 2009

LEADERSHIP STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Unifying Topic: JOSHUA: A LEADER FOR THE PEOPLE

Lesson Text

- I. Commissioned to Lead (Joshua 1:1-6)
- II. Commanded to Courageously Follow The Word (Joshua 1:7-9)
- III. Committed to the Conquest (Joshua 1:10-11, 16-17)

The Main Thought: Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:9 KJV).

Unifying Principle: In the midst of change and uncertainty, we need leaders who can guide us in the right direction. What are the characteristics of such leaders? Joshua, who succeeded Moses, was a strong, courageous leader whose obedience to God enabled the people

to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land.

Lesson Aim: To identify some essential elements of leadership in the story of God's calling of Joshua.

Life aim: To rely on God's presence and His provision when called to be a leader.

- 1:1 Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,
- 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.
- 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.
- 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.
- 1:5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.
- 1:6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.
- 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.
- 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.
- 1:10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,
- 1:11 Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it.
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- 1:16 And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.
- 1:17 According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

HISTORY:

As Deuteronomy Chapter 34 speaks of Moses' death and burial, it was not written by Moses. The Bible does not tell us who was lead by God to write this chapter, but it was most likely written by Joshua. It is also a transition into the book of Joshua.

Moses went from the plains of Moab up Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah which is about 6 miles across from Jericho, where given enough height a person can see the Promised Land. God showed Moses the Promised Land including Gilead as far as Dan, all of Naphtali and Ephraim and Manasseh, all of Judah

as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the South and the plain of the Jericho Valley and the city of the palm trees, as far as Zoar. This was done by revelation.

God assured Moses that He would keep the covenant He made to Abraham (Genesis 12:7), Isaac and Jacob and give Israel the Promised Land. However, because of His sin at Kadesh, Moses would not enter the Promised Land prior to his death (See Numbers 20, when Moses failed to glorify God by acting out of his own anger and striking the rock rather than speaking to the rock). Nevertheless, God graciously allowed Moses to view the land.

POINT:

The lawgiver, Moses, did not enter the Promised Land. After all, the law provides justice. Justice means we pay for our sins. God, through the work of Jesus Christ, gave us grace and mercy and paid for our sins giving us what we don't deserve and something we could never earn ourselves except through our faith in Jesus Christ. If Moses, the great Prophet could not enter the Promised Land on his own merits, what chance does the average person have?

The Israelites had been at the border of the Promised Land 40years earlier (Num.13:1--14:25), at which time the people had doubted that God could accomplish His Promises.

NOTE:

Moses was in the Promised Land when he appeared in the Transfiguration; therefore we know he entered the Promised Land after he died. (See Matthew 17:1-3 and Luke 9:28-31).

*Moses is referred to as the servant of God, which indeed he was. At the time of his death, Moses was 120 years old and his eyes had not weakened and he was still a vigorous man. After leading the people of Israel for forty years, he died according to God's Word. God buried Moses in a valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth Peor. But no one knew where his grave was.

The children of Israel mourned the death of Moses for thirty days in the valley of Moab. Typical mourning was for seven days. Joshua was Moses successor chosen to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. Until the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, no prophet had arisen like Moses.

Joshua did not enjoy the same privilege as Moses at this time, in speaking to God face to face. God did not send Joshua the same signs and wonders to perform as he did Moses. Nevertheless, Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him and appointed him as his successor (also laid hands earlier in Num.27:18-23). Moses passed the torch of his leadership to Joshua so that the children of Israel would heed him as they heeded Moses (A smooth transition of a leader). Deut.34:9-10, says, "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the Spirit of Wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him... And there arose not a Prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. "You've got to remember, Moses' leadership was strong, but God is stronger!

NOTE:

*Moses was a servant in the Wilderness, while Joshua, a son in the Land! Most Christians are satisfied to be servants in the Wilderness, but few are willing or prepared to be sons in the Land.

Joshua 1:1-6: Commissioned To Lead

It was clear to all of Israel that God had appointed Joshua to succeed Moses. Therefore, his transition to leader after the death of Moses* occurred without any written controversy. We are told that God spoke to Joshua, but we are not told in what manner, whether it was face to face, or from the pillar of cloud at the tabernacle or whether by the priest through the Urim and Thummim, or by just revelation.

God told Joshua that since Moses, God's servant, was dead, Joshua was to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. With God, no man could successfully stand against the Israelites.

Since, God had already conveyed the Promised Land to Israel by divine grant, the land was Israel's. Israel's inherited land extended from the Euphrates on the east to the Mediterranean Sea on the west (not the Jordan River, they had to cross the Jordan River to enter into the Promised Land, Canaan).

NOTE:

*Moses as representing the Law could not bring Israel into the Promised land, had to die, for he had made one failure under that law, and possession of Canaan by Law could only be by a perfect obedience to it.

POINT:

Joshua means the Lord is salvation, a type of the risen Savior, begins his ministry at the banks of Jordan, where Christ was baptized. Joshua is the Hebrew derivative of the Greek means "Jesus," the name of our blessed Lord Himself; Yahweh is salvation! Now it was time to go into the Promised Land!

PREPARATION FOR LEADERSHIP	
The relationship between Moses and Joshua shows a mentoring pattern for developing leadership qualities.	
Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua was born in slavery and oppression (Ex. 1:13). • He was among those who cried out to God for deliverance (Ex. 2:23).
The Exodus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua observed the plagues (Ex. 7:14—12:29). • He saw the impotency of Egypt's gods (Ex. 7:10-13). • He observed Pharaoh's humiliation (Ex. 8:8-10). • He witnessed the miraculous provision of God (Num. 11:31-33).
Leadership Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua was the leader of a tribe (Num. 13:2, 8, 16). • He stood for God at the risk of his own life (Num. 14:6-10). • Though in the minority, he wholly followed God (Num. 32:11, 12). • He co-led the people (Num. 27:18-23). • He led battles (Ex. 17:9, 10).
Observation of Moses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses delegated authority (Ex. 18:17-26). • He encountered God on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 24:12, 13). • He experienced the rebellion of the people (Num. 12:1-15; 16:1-50). • He responded to complaining (Ex. 17:1-7). • He experienced frustration at the disobedience of the people (Ex. 16:25-30). • He obeyed God (Ex. 40:16-19).
Teaching by Moses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua received the book written by Moses (Ex. 17:14). • He shared authority with Moses (Num. 27:18-23). • Moses gave instructions to Joshua (Josh. 1:7).
Observations of Joshua's Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua learned patience (40 years waiting to get into the Land). • He learned to see God (Num. 27:15-18). • He learned to obey only God (Num. 14:8, 9). • He learned to lead (Num. 27:18-23).
God's Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God told Moses that Joshua was the new leader (Num. 27:15-23). • God told Joshua that he was the new leader (Josh. 1:1-9). • God showed the people Joshua was the leader (Josh. 3:7). • God personally appeared to Joshua (Josh. 5:13-15).
God's Specific Promises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua would possess every place his foot would tread (Josh. 1:3). • God would be with Joshua as He was with Moses (Josh. 1:5, 9). • No one would be able to usurp Joshua's position (Josh. 1:5). • Joshua would prosper (Josh. 1:7).
God's Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be strong and courageous (Josh. 1:6, 9). • Observe all Moses' commands (Josh. 1:7, 13). • Meditate on the Book day and night (Josh. 1:8). • Do not be afraid (Josh. 1:9).
Public Affirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people accepted him as Moses' replacement (Josh. 1:16, 17). • They gave him their allegiance (Josh. 1:18). • Leaders (priests) responded to him (Josh. 3:8-17; 4:16-18).
Joshua's Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua acted quickly (Josh. 3:1). • He sent only two spies, and they reported to him (Josh. 2:1, 23). • He relayed God's promises to the people (Josh. 3:5, 8). • He set up memorials (Josh. 4:1-9). • He recognized and worshiped the real Commander (Josh. 5:13-15). • He made mistakes (Josh. 7:1-9). • He experienced God's direct involvement (Josh. 10:14). • He administered the division of Land (Josh. 13-19).
Evaluations of Joshua's Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua practiced immediate obedience (Josh. 11:23). • He learned from the past (Josh. 10:25). • He held to God's Word (Josh. 8:34, 35). • He taught the people the importance of God's Word (Josh. 23:6). • He read God's Word to the people (Josh. 8:35). • In victory, he praised God (Josh. 8:30). • He recognized that God fulfilled every need (Josh. 23:14). • He continually gave God the credit (Josh. 3:5, 10; 4:23, 24; 23:3). • He made a life-long commitment (Josh. 24:15).

Although the Israelites had not yet conquered the land, they had nothing to fear because God was with them and God would not abandon them. God told Joshua to be strong and of a good courage.

Joshua 1:7-9: Commanded To Courageously Follow The Word

To get where God was leading them was dependent on following God's Word to the letter. Joshua and the Israelites were to know the Book of the Law and to meditate on it at all times. If they obeyed God's law and never strayed from it, they would prosper and have not just success, but good success. They had to apply the teaching in their every-day living. There will be hindrances, but they would not be defeated. There will be obstacles, but they would not be afraid. Wherever they went, God was going to be with them. What a Promise!

Joshua 1:10-11; 16-17: Committed To The

Conquest

Joshua acted immediately as commander-in-chief of the military. Joshua told the Israelites to prepare themselves because in three days time they were going to cross the Jordan River. Although the manna had not stopped falling each day, they were to prepare provisions for their journey.

2.5 tribes (Reuben Gad, and one half the tribe of Manasseh) were to help conquer the Promised Land, then go back east of the Jordan River to settle with their families as agreed where things were more appealing to the eye and where there was ease, comfort, plenty and riches as the world would look at it rather than go into their Promised Land. The tribes confirmed Joshua's words with a clear commitment and expressed their desire to keep their word and obey Joshua as leader with the same loyalty as they obeyed Moses.

NOTE:

Obedience is easy when all goes well and when it makes little demand upon our lives. What made Joshua and this mission so successful was that the people obeyed. When we think about it, the quicker we do it, the blessed we are. We will come to learn that God has a greater reward for the Words of His mouth than for the works of His hand.

SUMMARY:

Joshua experienced a major change in his life because he had stood the test in the dry place, the places of the wilderness when no one believed him, the place of responsibility, as leader of the tribe of Ephraim, and co-leader with Moses, especially in the earlier years. His leadership was destined by God. Most leaders are not just born, but they are made through the tests and trials of their faithfulness; And "Great" leaders, in their faithfulness of **trusting God** by the power of His Holy Spirit's leading, and not by feelings.

Joshua was **commission** (appointed and assigned) by God to lead, therefore, he believed. He was then, **commanded** (ordered) to courageously follow the Word, therefore, he was being developed, he said yes without hesitation. And he was also **committed** (devoted and was faithful) to the conquest, his life was no longer his, but for someone else, giving it his all. No wonder this generation possessed the Promised Land. Their leader obeyed God, the officers obeyed their leader, the people obeyed the officers and God was faithful in fulfilling His promises on behalf of the nation. Following a leader who himself submits to authority, we shall possess our possessions without delay.

Everything was not perfect when he came on the scene to be leader, but one thing for sure was God's strong Words, "No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life...As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous (twice)" were the encouragement that became Joshua's catalyst of assurance in the making of God's strong and courageous leader for God's people. Joshua had already observed and followed a great leader, Moses! He was also patient for his Promise! Now destiny meets opportunity and is Fulfilled by God.

APPLICATION:

We all have the potential but we all don't have the willingness to work hard. Between potential and the manifestation of the potential lies effort. Whatever leadership position you are over, begin training those under you and trust God to be in them to do the job. You have to give room for mistakes. Developing leaders is a process that brings out a cry for God's equipping because while man will cast you out, God reels you in, gives you another chance and never gives up on you. Ask God to lead you to a trustworthy Moses and to make you a good Joshua. Be ready to listen, move quickly when God instructs. Once you have instructions, be diligent in carrying them out. Our strength is in Him.