

The Leadership of Joshua

1. Reading: **Joshua 1:1-9**
2. **Ezek. 22:30-31**
 - a. A verse that men's studies is often based around.
 - b. We see a lack of leadership all around us
 - c. -we see it in the upper echelons of government
 - d. -we see it in our communities
 - e. -but our concern is we also see it in the Lord's church and in families
3. As we see examples of leaders who stand out in scripture, I'm sure Joshua stands out to most of us.
4. We see the impact of his leadership in **Josh. 24:29-31**.
5. We can learn from Joshua several characteristics of leadership
 - a. Not just for those men who might serve as elders, deacons, evangelists can benefit from a study of Joshua but leaders, both men and women, who encourage others in their walk with the Lord and lead others to Christ.
 - b. Parents who are leading their family in the way they should go
 - c. Children can learn how to prepare to be leaders among their peers and later among the church.

Discussion:

I. A MAN OF HUMILITY

- A. As a young man (<40), he was Moses' assistant/servant (**Ex. 24:13; 33:11**) – he remained at the Temple – wasn't seeking the glory
- B. Great leaders are born from those who are willing to submit to and serve others – from their youth.
- C. No doubt he was influenced by the example of humility from his predecessor – Moses (**c.f. Num. 12:2-3**)
- D. Rehoboam's advice – be a servant (**1 Kg. 12:1-11, 13**) note: young men are those under around the age of 40 years old (**c.f. 1 Kg. 14:21**)
- E. Saul – was humble, then prideful (**1 Sam. 9:21; 10:22; 15:10-19**)
- F. Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ (**Phil. 2:3, 5-12**) – as he taught his disciples about humility (**Mk. 10:35-45**); song "Make me a servant"
- G. Even when the Lord exalted Joshua; he remained a humble servant (**Josh. 3:7; 4:14; 5:13-15**)
- H. Humble b/c he put his faith and trust in the Lord

II. A MAN OF FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD

- A. A genuine, lived faith like Timothy (**c.f. 2 Tim. 1:5**)
- B. We see his faith and trust before he was a leader, as a young man, a spy (**Num. 13:25-28**)
 - Even when it wasn't 'popular' (**Num. 14:1-10**)
- C. As he led the people against Jericho (**Josh. 6:1-5; Heb. 11:30**)
- D. Great leaders don't put their trust in self or others, but the Lord
- E. "Lean not on your own understanding" (**Prov. 3:5-8**)

III. A MAN OF GOD'S WORD

- A. As the source of his faith – God's word (c.f. Rom. 10:17)
- B. Part of God's expectation when He was preparing Joshua to lead His people (**Josh. 1:1-9**) – keep and mediate upon God's word (**Josh. 1:8-9; c.f. 1 Tim. 4:13-16; Ps. 1:1-3**)
- C. We see this throughout his life

1. In commanding the 2 ½ tribes of their duty - **Josh. 1:12-15**;
2. In renewing the covenant at Mt. Gerizim and Ebal – **Josh. 8:30-35**;
3. Left nothing undone as commanded of the Lord – **Josh. 11:15**;
4. At the end of his life he reminded the nation – **Josh. 23:6, 14-16**)

D. We need leaders who:

- Busy themselves in the study and proclamation of God's word
- Hide themselves behind the cross of Christ and His word

IV. A MAN OF PRAYER

- A. As God's people, we should not only be familiar with His word, but active in speaking to God (**Eph. 6:10, 18; 2 Thess. 5:17**)
- B. Joshua prayed for Israel's failures (**Josh. 7:6-9**)
- C. Joshua prayed amid battle (**Josh. 10:9-14**)
- D. Others' example in prayer
 1. Nehemiah (**Neh. 1:4; 2:4; 4:4**)
 2. Paul – in nearly every epistle
 3. Jesus – throughout His short life

V. A MAN WHO PUT GOD FIRST

- A. We need leaders like Joshua, willing to stop their busy life to put God first
 - B. Serving God was his priority [priority only became a plural in the last 80 years, around 1940 – and we see this in our attitude today]
 - C. Put it before the important activities going on – in the middle of a military campaign (**Josh. 8:30-35; c.f. Deut. 27-28; Josh. 9:1-2**)
 - D. Put God before others (**Josh. 24:14-15**)
 - E. Positively impacting them – (:16)
- Joshua's leadership had a lasting impact on Israel! (**Josh. 24:29-31**)