

Joshua - Faithful Follower

February 5, 2017 ~ Exodus 24.9-18, 32.7-8, 15-18

3-Part Series on Roles of Joshua

1. Faithful Follower ~ War against Amalek (**Ex 17**) to Death of Moses (**Deu 34**)
 2. Courageous Leader ~ Death of Moses (**Deu 34**) to Witness Altar (**Josh 22**)
 3. Influential Guide ~ Farewell Address (**Josh 23**) to Death of Joshua (**Jdg 2**)
- ❖ 3 roles reflect Joshua's role towards people – towards God an obedient servant
 - ✧ Follower of Moses / Leader of People / Guide of Posterity
 - ✧ 'Formal' roles in Israelite society / Aspects of each sprinkled through life
 - ❖ He transitioned gradually between the roles / He grew into them
 - ❖ Today we'll examine Joshua as a faithful follower

Followership vs. Leadership

- ❖ **!!!**: Amazon ~ 190k books on leadership / There are only 173 on followership
 - ✧ "Did you know that followership is a word?"
 - ◇ "ship" – "Suffix appended to a noun to form a new noun denoting property or state of being, time spent in a role, or a specialized union."
 - ✧ But don't be fooled / Many followership books are written for leadership
- ❖ **!!!**: Google ~ Leadership ~ 800,000,000 hits / Followership ~ 740,000 hits
- ❖ Ratio between leadership and followership is about 1,000 to 1
 - ✧ Phrase "captains of thousands" occurs 17 times in Old Testament
 - ◇ A modern captain has 1,000 books to read vs. 1 by his 1,000 troops

Followership Held in Disrepute

- ❖ Calling someone "excellent follower" not perceived (*or meant*) as a compliment
- ❖ Until recently few had thought to study or teach on the topic of followership
 - ✧ Decent followers thought to be a natural by-product of good leadership
 - ✧ But recent studies have occurred on the topic of followership
 - ✧ Good followers are expected to reflect the following qualities (11):
 - ◇ Honesty, loyalty, brave dissent, competence, good judgment, discretion, humility, good teammanship, initiative, responsibility, trustworthiness
- ❖ "Do you see what I see?"
 - ✧ This could easily be a list of desirable character traits in leaders

Xition: Good followers are just good leaders viewed from a different perspective

Good Followers Often Make Good Leaders

- ❖ It's true, some followers don't want to bear formal responsibility of leadership
 - ✧ They're often fine with informal responsibility, however
- ❖ But being described as a good follower should not be perceived as a slight
 - ✧ For every Captain Kirk, there's often a Commander Spock
 - ✧ There's the Lone Ranger and Tonto, Batman and Robin, Moses and Joshua
- ❖ An online Air Force study titled, "**Dynamic Followership**", had following quote:
 - ✧ "**A dynamic followership program should produce individuals who, when the moment arrives, seamlessly transition to lead effectively.**"
- ❖ Let's examine Joshua's career as a very successful "follower" of Moses
 - ✧ But first, let's clarify what followers truly follow...
 - ✧ "**Followers do not serve leaders. Rather, leaders and followers both serve the common purpose or mission, within a shared set of values.**"
 - ~ Ira Chaleff in "**The Courageous Follower**"
 - ✧ We'll highlight **24** desirable character traits exhibited at **10** points in his life

1. Joshua Leads Israelites in War with Amalekites

- ❖ **Read Ex 17.8-9a** ~ "**Now Amalek came .. fight with Amalek.**"
 - ✧ Available ~ Moses needed a man / Joshua available (**III**: Exec at Auto Co.)
 - ✧ Dependable ~ Moses knows he can rely on him / Reputation preceded him
- ❖ **Read Ex 17.10** ~ "**So Joshua did as Moses .. fought with Amalek.**"
 - ✧ Obedient ~ Joshua did just as told / Too many commanders don't
- ❖ **Read Ex 17.13** ~ "**So Joshua defeated .. edge of the sword.**"
 - ✧ Steadfast ~ Joshua pursued the matter to a conclusion / Too many don't
- ❖ **Read Ex 17.14** ~ "**Then the Lord .. from under heaven.**"
 - ✧ Invested ~ God honors Joshua with promise / Perhaps wanted to pursue

2. Moses Ascends Mt Sinai with Joshua

- ❖ **Read Ex 24.9-18** ~ "**Then Moses went up .. forty days and forty nights**"
 - ✧ **v14** ~ Joshua was with Moses when he left the elders
 - ◇ Useful ~ Of all people Moses wanted Joshua with him
 - ✧ **v18** ~ But Moses went into the cloud atop it alone
 - ◇ Disciplined ~ Joshua waited patiently alone for 40 days

Xition: Moses (and Joshua) descend My Sinai – 3rd vignette

3. Moses Descends Mt Sinai and Rejoins Joshua

- ❖ Read Ex 32.7-8, 15-18 ~ “And the Lord .. singing I hear.”
- ✧ v7-8 ~ God informs Moses of what’s happened below
- ✧ v17 ~ Joshua doesn’t know about people’s idolatry
 - ◇ [Optimistic](#) ~ Joshua assumes best of people

4. Joshua Serves Around the Clock in Tabernacle

- ❖ Read Ex 33.7-11 ~ “Moses took his .. from the tabernacle.”
- ✧ v11 ~ Moses comes & goes from tabernacle – Joshua remains
 - ◇ [Reliable](#) ~ Joshua remains at tabernacle around the clock
 - ◇ [Sacrificial](#) ~ Joshua lives solitary existence apart from family & friends

5. Joshua Protests 2 Elders Prophesying

- ❖ Read Num 11.24-29 ~ “So Moses went .. elders of Israel.”
- ✧ v28 ~ Joshua can’t contain himself
 - ◇ [Respectful](#) ~ Joshua calls Moses his lord
 - ◇ [Loyal](#) ~ Joshua eager to protect Moses’ role and reputation
 - ◇ [Bold](#) ~ Joshua willing to advise Moses

6. Joshua Selected as a Spy

- ❖ Read Num 13.1-4a, 8, 16 ~ “And the Lord .. son of Nun, Joshua.”
- ✧ v2 ~ Joshua selected to represent Ephraim
 - ◇ [Leader](#) ~ Joshua selected / referred to as leader in v2
 - ◇ [Discrete](#) ~ A spy must be able to guard his tongue
 - ◇ [Wise](#) ~ A spy must be able to think quickly

Xition: Joshua and Caleb argue for invasion – 7th vignette

7. Joshua and Caleb Argue for Invasion

- ❖ Read Num 13.25 ~ “And they returned .. after forty days.”
- ✧ v27 ~ Report starts out good / “flows with milk and honey”
- ✧ v30 ~ But Caleb had to quiet the people / “Let us go up”
- ✧ v32 ~ Other spies give “bad report of the land”
- ✧ Num 14.4 ~ Some start an insurrection “Let us select a leader”
- ✧ v5 ~ “Moses and Aaron fall on their faces”
 - ◇ Humble ~ v6 ~ Joshua & Caleb “tore clothes”
 - ◇ Assertive ~ v7 ~ Joshua wasn’t afraid to speak up in time of turmoil
 - ◇ Truthful ~ v7 ~ “exceedingly good land” / Not changing story for fear
 - Q: Samuel Goldwyn ~ “I want everyone to tell me the truth, even if it costs them their jobs.”
 - ◇ Courageous ~ v9-10 ~ Encouraged invasion despite fear and panic

8. Joshua Commissioned as Leader

- ❖ Read Num 27.15-21 ~ “Then Moses spoke .. all the congregation.”
- ◇ Saved ~ v18 ~ Within the Church there must be evidence of God’s grace
- ◇ Authoritative ~ v20 ~ Formal authority tends towards greater obedience

9. Joshua & Eleazar to Ensure Eastern Tribes Honor Commitment

- ❖ Read Num 32.28-30 ~ “So Moses gave .. land of Canaan.”
- ◇ Honorable ~ v29 ~ Moses giving a command beyond his own life

10. Joshua & Eleazar to Oversee Division of Land

- ❖ Read Num 34.16-18 ~ “And the Lord .. for the inheritance”
- ◇ Fair ~ v17 ~ God establishes equitable process / Eleazar and Joshua key

- Joshua spent 40 years as a ‘faithful follower’ of Moses
- The best followers are merely leaders in training
- Next time we’ll look at Joshua as the leader of Israel

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .