

Joshua – Courageous Leader

February 12, 2017 ~ Joshua 1.1-9

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**)

Joshua's 24 Leadership Training Traits ~ "Followership"

1. War w/Amalek – Available, Dependable, Obedient, Steadfast, Invested
 2. Mt. Sinai – Useful, Disciplined, Optimistic
 3. Tabernacle – Reliable, Sacrificial
 4. Elders Prophesying – Respectful, Loyal, Bold
 5. Spy Selection – Leader, Discrete, Wise
 6. Spy Reporting – Humble, Assertive, Truthful, Courageous
 7. Commissioned – Saved, Authoritative
 8. Future Responsibilities – Honorable, Fair
- ❖ Main feature of **Follower** – Faithfulness
 - ❖ Main feature of **Leader** – Courage (today's emphasis upon courageous acts)
 - ✧ I'll tell the story of Joshua and later emphasize acts of courage
 - ✧ Before summarizing Joshua's experiences let's cover 3 overarching points

1. Contrast of Moses and Joshua's Leadership

- ❖ Moses had been challenged repeatedly – especially early on
 - ✧ CM Series: "In the Wilderness"
 - ✧ 40 years of privilege / 40 years of anonymity / 40 years of faithfulness
- ❖ Moses had come out of nowhere to lead the people
 - ✧ But these people had known Joshua all of their lives
 - ✧ Peaceful xition to new leader has now occurred
- ❖ **ch1.13-15** ~ Joshua reminds Rueben, Gad and ½ tribe of Manassah of promise
 - ✧ **What is their response?** **Read 1.16-18** ~ Confidence and encouragement

Xition: Two more overarching points . . .

2. Similarities to Escape from Egypt are Intentional

- ❖ **ch3** ~ God dried up Jordan just as the Red Sea
 - ✧ Talked of crossing Jordan for months / years
 - ✧ But now they're attacking in confidence – not retreating in fear
- ❖ **ch2** ~ Spies sent into Promised Land a 2nd time

3. Battle Belongs to the Lord

- ❖ God is the Architect of this invasion
 - ✧ God dried up the Jordan River
 - ✧ God gave Joshua the odd plan of attack of Jericho
 - ✧ When the attack upon Ai failed God told Joshua why
 - ✧ God then gave Joshua the Ai plan of attack / success w/upraised spear
 - ✧ God gave success against Amorites w/hailstones and extra long day
- ❖ Details may not be familiar to you yet / But God is always the real leader
 - ✧ **WC**: There is only one Head of the Church – the Lord Jesus Christ

Ch6 ~ Phenomenal Success at Jericho

- ❖ **Ch3** – They cross the Jordan River
- ❖ **Ch4** – They set up memorial stones in Gilgal / Book of Memorials
- ❖ **Ch5** – All males are circumcised (not done while in Wilderness)
- ❖ **Ch5b** – Commander of the Army of the Lord gives Joshua battle plan
- ❖ The battle plan to take Jericho is not just odd – it's ludicrous
 - ✧ God chose this plan to illustrate a truth - Victory would come . . .
 - ✧ *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit’, says the Lord of Hosts.”*

Ch7a ~ Achan's Sin and Defeat at Ai

- ❖ We are let in on what Achan had done in **verse 1**
- ❖ **Read 7.2-3** ~ Joshua sends spies to Ai
 - ✧ They return and say, *“Do not let all the people go up...”*
- ❖ Joshua and spies transitioned quickly from faith in God to faith in numbers
 - ✧ What they've done seems reasonable / But reason isn't what we've seen
 - ◆ Reason didn't allow them to cross Jordan on dry ground
 - ◆ Reason didn't have them incapacitate entire army “after” invasion began
 - ◆ Reason didn't lead them to take Jericho with only a parade
- ❖ Joshua's confidence is shaken / 36 men are dead / They fled the battlefield

Xition: Let's review his reaction – and God's . . .

Ch7b ~ Joshua Laments Being the Leader

- ❖ **Read 7.6-9** ~ “Then Joshua tore .. Your great name?”
 - ✧ **Good** – tore clothes, prostrated, waited, “Your great name”
 - ✧ **Bad** – But he complained and longed to cross back across river
- ❖ Joshua’s success at Jericho appears to have led to presumption
 - ✧ His defeat at Ai destroys his confidence
 - ✧ He doesn’t respond well / God gives him a painful “**pep talk**”
- ❖ **Read 7.10-12** ~ “So the Lord .. from among you.”
 - ✧ Joshua had been in near constant communication with God / until Ai
 - ✧ But now God catches Joshua up on what’s happened

Ch7c ~ Joshua Addresses Root of Problem

- ❖ God only said, “**Israel has sinned**” / But He did give Joshua process (**v13-15**)
- ❖ **v16** ~ “So Joshua rose early in the morning” / Phrase used often
 - ✧ He demonstrates the courage of leadership
 - ✧ He must deal with a personnel issue / It’s easy to procrastinate

Ch8 ~ Ai Taken on 2nd Attempt and Covenant Renewed as Proscribed

- ❖ Joshua’s spies had advised small force / God sends entire army
- ❖ God gives instructions for ambush / Ai taken iaw God’s plan / king executed
- ❖ Covenant renewed / Law read

Ch9 ~ Joshua Taken in by Gibeonites

- ❖ Gibeonite deception / flattery
 - ✧ **Read v6-8** ~ They suspect deception but give in to flattery
 - ✧ **Read v14** ~ They didn’t seek counsel of the Lord
- ❖ **v15** ~ He and elders covenant with Gibeonites
 - ✧ **v16-18** ~ They learn of deception / People upset / But honor covenant

Ch10 ~ Gibeonites Attacked / Israel Comes to their Aid

- ❖ 5 Amorite kings besiege Gibeon
- ❖ Joshua marches all night from Gilgal to rescue
 - ✧ Hailstones killed more than swords / Sun & moon stood still for a day
- ❖ Kings executed before captains
 - ✧ “**be strong and of good courage**” repeated

Xition: Let’s move a little more quickly . . .

Ch10b - 11 ~ Southern Conquest & Northern Conquest

- ❖ 5 Amorite kings besiege Gibeon
- ❖ Southern cities conquered ~ Makkedah / Libnah / Lachish / Eglon / Debir
 - ✧ 10.42 – “The Lord God fought for Israel”
- ❖ Northern cities conquered ~ Hazor / Madon / Shimron / Achshaph / more . .

Joshua Modeled War for All Israelites

- ❖ Josh 12.7-24 ~ Joshua lead the fight for 7 years or more
 - ✧ They defeated 31 kings in battle
- ❖ No peace was had with any except the Gibeonites – “no mercy” 11.20
 - ✧ We’re repeatedly told that Joshua killed “all that breathed”
- ❖ Though Joshua won the victory they still needed to possess that victory

Joshua Confronts Them Concerning Taking Land

- ❖ Josh 18.1-3 ~ “Now the whole .. fathers has given you”
 - ✧ Joshua had done his part – but the tribes weren’t doing theirs
- ❖ He sends 21 men (3 from 7 tribes) to survey land
 - ✧ Tribes receive land by lot through ch 19

“Mission Accomplished”

- ❖ Read 11.23 ~ “So Joshua took .. rested from war”
- ❖ Ch12 – Summary of wars thus far
- ❖ Read 13.1 ~ “Now Joshua was old .. yet to be possessed”
- ❖ Is there a conflict here? Had Joshua accomplished everything?
 - ✧ Yes – and No... Already and Not Yet...
 - ◇ As Christians, when we are saved from sin, do we truly sin no more?
 - Has our enemy sin been vanquished forevermore?
 - ◇ No ~ Jesus won the war / But we continue skirmishing until we die
 - ✧ Same true here / Joshua destroyed standing armies / but skirmishes remain

Crises of Leadership ~ “Crisis after ..”

- ❖ Success #1 ~ Victory at Jericho led to presumption at Ai (faith in numbers)
- ❖ Failure ~ Failure at Ai caused Joshua to question his call (God rebuked him)
- ❖ Success #2 ~ Victory at Ai led to falling for deception of Gibeonites (flattery)
- ❖ Honoring Word ~ Covenanted with Gibeonites / People upset but . . .

Xition: Now let’s review lessons in leadership from life of Joshua

5 Principles of Courageous Leadership

1. **Obey God** ~ All wisdom and success is from God
 - ✧ Obey God always / Even when His Word/commands conflict with our reason
2. **Honor Commitments** ~ Those you made and those you inherited
 - ✧ Joshua honored promises made to Rahab, Gibeonites (people, Amorites)
 - ✧ He also honored promises Moses made c/eastern tribes, renewal of covenant, apportioning of land, land for daughters of Zelophehad, land for Caleb, cities of refuge, cities of Levites
3. **Hold People Accountable** (eastern tribes, Achan, take inheritance **18.3**)
4. **Guard Against Success** (presumption, pride, flattery)
5. **Guard Against Failure** (discouragement, fear)

Analogy Between Joshua & Israelites and Jesus & Church

- ❖ Joshua's name is the equivalent of Jesus' (Hebrew and Greek)
- ❖ Joshua led Israelites into Promised Land / Taught them to fight enemies
 - ✧ Jesus leads us into salvation / Teaches us to fight sin
- ❖ Joshua defeated armies, apportioned land, and gained initial possession
 - ✧ Jesus conquered sin, Holy Spirit entered hearts
- ❖ Israelites had to continue war against their enemies / perpetual
 - ✧ We have to continue war against sin / perpetual

- Joshua vanquished Israel's visible, organized enemies
- But he would / could not fight the people's battles for them
- Joshua was a type of Christ in that he conquered God's enemies
- Yet, like with Christ, the enemies though defeated, remain to inflict harm
- We must be diligent and merciless in our war with sin
- We can learn from Joshua's example

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 . . .