



Soldiering: A Biblical Perspective

Lesson 2

Joshua's Godly Leadership & Consistency

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Lesson 3

Nehemiah's Godly Prayer, Delegation & Action

1. Leadership.

- a. How do you define Leadership?
- b. What are the Qualities/Traits/Characteristics of a good leader?
 - (1) Character: What must the leader BE?
 - (2) Knowledge: What must the leader KNOW?
 - (3) Skill: What must the leader be able to DO?

Note: Your definition of leadership and your assessment of what a leader must BE, KNOW, and DO may provide you a framework to evaluate Joshua's leadership.

2. Joshua's Background.

- a. Field Commander serving under Moses: Exodus 17:8-13. Aide/minister to Moses: Exodus 24:13 (Note Aaron's and Hur's roles as staff officers supporting their commander, Moses. A good staff helps the commander win!!)
- b. The dissenting spy: Numbers 13:1-2, 17- 33; Numbers 14:6-9
 - (1) Why were the spies sent to Canaan?
 - (2) What did they report upon their return?
 - (3) Contrast the reports rendered by the majority of the scouting party and the report rendered by Joshua and Caleb? The Ten, Joshua and Caleb.
 - (4) What does this tell you about Joshua (Numbers 14:6-9)?
- c. Joshua receives the mantle of leadership from Jehovah and Moses. Deuteronomy 31:14-15, 23.

3. Joshua's Marching Orders. Joshua 1:1-9

- a. What was Joshua's mission?
- b. What resources did God give Joshua with which to accomplish his mission? Spiritual and physical.
- c. What were Joshua's restraints (things he could not do)?
- d. What were Joshua's constraints (things he must do)?
- e. God's Strategy for Mission Accomplishment: Knowledge + Strength/Courage + Obedience = SUCCESS

4. Crossing the Jordan. Joshua 3. The conquest of Canaan required the people of Israel to first cross the Jordan River. As many things in our lives have meaning over and above the physical impact so to did crossing the Jordan. God's plan for the Israelites was not clear but they moved out in faith trusting the Lord to lead them to the Promised Land. Often we to must step out in faith believing that what is happening in our life is part of God's plan for us.

- a. What were the people required to do before they could cross the Jordan? (Joshua 3:5)
- b. What led the procession? Why?

- c. What faith was required on the part of the priests?
- d. What purpose did God have in getting the people across the Jordan beyond the obvious one of allowing them to start the conquest of the Promised Land?

NOTE: After the children of Israel crossed the Jordan, they did two things specified by the Lord. First, they erected a memorial with 12 stones, one for each tribe, taken from the Jordan River bed. This memorial served as testimony to the Lord's miraculous work in getting the people across the Jordan. It was to be a place for teaching God's faithfulness to subsequent generations. Second, Joshua and his leaders circumcised all males. This circumcision signified the covenant between God and the descendants of Abraham. It removed God's reproach for Israel's lack of faith while traveling in the wilderness. Joshua and Caleb were the only men still alive who had left Egypt 40 years earlier. Think about this. With a river to their back and enemy to their front, Joshua and the army of Israel deliberately chose to please God while becoming "combat ineffective due to medical fitness."

5. The Battle of Jericho (Joshua 5:13 - 6:27). Summary: Jericho was a key battle for the Israelites because the city of Jericho sat at the entrance to the pass that controlled access into the interior of Palestine. It could not be bypassed without leaving the army of Israel subject to attack from the rear. Joshua got his "attack order" from the captain of the host of the Lord. The divine Captain told Joshua to march the children of Israel around Jericho in absolute silence once a day for six days; then to march them around the city seven times on the seventh day. At the end of the seventh march on the seventh day, they were to blow the rams' horns, raise a large shout, and assault the city as the walls fell flat. The ark of the Lord was to be positioned in the midst of the procession. The wall fell, not from sound vibration but because God told the people it would fall, and they believed and obeyed

- a. Why did the wall fall? Heb 11:30.
- b. Why total destruction (Joshua 6:21)?

6. Battle of Ai (Joshua chapters 7 & 8).

- a. Compare how Joshua prepared himself and the nation of Israel for the Battle of Jericho and the Battle of Ai?
- b. What happened on the first attempt to take Ai (7:2-4)? Why?
- c. How did Joshua respond (7:6-9)? Why was Joshua so discouraged?
- d. What did God tell Joshua to do (7:10-15)?
- e. How did Joshua locate the problem?
- f. What led Achan to sin (7:21)? Compare with 1 John 2:16.
- g. Compare Achan's sin and Joshua's inconsistency. How did each contribute to Israel's failed first attempt?
- h. How did the second attack on Ai differ from the first (Joshua 8:1-2, 12, 15, 21)?
- i. Compare and contrast the tactics at Jericho with the tactics used in the second attack on Ai. What military principles do you deduce? What spiritual principles are evident?

7. The Northern Campaign (Joshua 11).

- a. What was the situation in the northern part of Palestine (11:4-5)?
- b. How did Joshua respond (11:6-7)?
- c. Why did God instruct Joshua to destroy the enemy's horses and chariots?
- d. What lessons can be learned from this campaign?

8. Campaigns summarized (Joshua 12). Scholars estimate the campaigns lasted 5-7 years and resulted in the destruction of 31 kingdoms.

9. Caleb's inheritance (Joshua 14:6-15).
 - a. What was the basis for Caleb's request to conquer Hebron?
 - b. Why did Joshua grant Caleb's request?
 - c. How do you think Caleb would do on the "over 85" aerobic fitness test? How well would he do on the "over 85" spiritual fitness test?
 - d. What lessons can be drawn from Caleb's faithfulness and reward for your life?

10. Joshua's charge to his people; "Keep on keeping on."
 - a. First address: Joshua 23.
 - (1) Who fought for Israel (23:3)?
 - (2) Based on this, what were the people to do (23:6-7)?
 - (3) What was the MOST important thing for them to do (23:8)?
 - b. Second address: Joshua 24.
 - (1) Joshua reminds them of what good thing that the Lord had done for Israel (24:2-13)?
 - (2) What were the Israelites to do with their old gods (24:14)?
 - (3) How did Joshua personalize his allegiance and make it known (24:15)?

11. Joshua's Legacy. A key task, if not the transcendent task, of leadership is to communicate values to one's followers. This fosters mission accomplishment and enduring commitment to these values. Perhaps the ultimate measure of a leader is his/her legacy as seen in the lives of his/her followers. Four techniques of inculcating values are example, exhortation, reward, and punishment. Cite instances in which Joshua used each of these techniques to pass on his values to his people.
 - a. Example.
 - b. Exhortation.
 - c. Reward.
 - d. Punishment.

12. Evaluate Joshua as a leader and as a follower in both spiritual and military aspects. Use the categories below to conduct your evaluation.
 - a. Leader.
 - b. Follower.
 - c. Character (Be aspect).
 - d. Knowledge (Know aspect).
 - e. Skill (Do aspects).

Application. What lessons from Joshua's life can be applied to your walk with the Lord and your professional responsibilities?