

## **JOSHUA, A GREAT LEADER** **(Joshua 24:29-31)**

### **I. Joshua was a man of humility.**

- A. Before Joshua was a leader, he was a servant.
  - 1. For forty years Joshua served under Moses.
  - 2. He was known as the servant of Moses (Exodus 24:13; 33:11).
- B. Great leaders are people who have no problem with serving others if that is what is needed because it helps prepare them to lead.
- C. When he became a leader, he was still willing to serve.
  - 1. Joshua had been magnified by God Himself (Joshua 3:7; 4:14).
  - 2. Despite that fact, he was still willing to serve the One who was greater than him (Joshua 5:13-15).
- D. Joshua did not allow praise or position to go to his head.
- E. Great leaders are humble enough to know when it is time to serve again.

### **II. Joshua was a man of faith and trust in God.**

- A. This was demonstrated when he was sent to spy out Canaan.
  - 1. Ten of the men with whom he went brought back an evil report, showing their lack of faith.
  - 2. Despite any of what we call peer pressure there may have been, Joshua, along with Caleb, remained faithful to God and trusted in Him (Numbers 14:6-9).
- B. His faith was demonstrated when attacking Jericho.
  - 1. God told Joshua how He wanted the Israelites to take Jericho (Joshua 6:1-5).
  - 2. Only a man of great faith would not have questioned this plan.
  - 3. There was no questioning, only following by Joshua (Hebrews 11:30).
- C. Great leaders of God's people put their trust in God.
  - 1. They don't fall prey to the temptation to trust in themselves.
  - 2. They put their trust in other people or bank accounts.
  - 3. They go to God in prayer and study, believing in Him above all else.

### **III. Joshua was a man of God's word.**

- A. Any success Joshua had was tied directly to his faithfulness to the commands of God.
  - 1. To ensure his success he had to be faithful to the Law of Moses (Joshua 1:7).
  - 2. To ensure that, he was to meditate on that word (Joshua 1:8).
- B. Time after time in Joshua's tenure as leader we see him being faithful to the word of God.
  - 1. He was faithful in reminding the 2 ½ tribes of their responsibilities (Joshua 1:12-15).
  - 2. He was faithful in renewing the covenant and splitting the people up at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim (8:30-35).
  - 3. Notice Joshua 11:15.
  - 4. Even at the close of his life, Joshua encouraged the people to be

- faithful to God's word (23:6, 14-16).
- C. Since faith comes by hearing God's word, we know one cannot be a man of faith without being a man of God's word.
  - D. We need leaders who rely on God's word.
    - 1. Joshua was to meditate on it.
    - 2. Leaders of today are to do no less (1Timothy 4:13).
- IV. Joshua was a man of prayer.**
- A. Joshua prayed when Israel failed (Joshua 7:6-9).
    - 1. Incidentally, we see his faith here when God told Joshua to get up (vs. 10).
    - 2. Joshua then did everything God said to do in order to rid the camp of sin.
  - B. Joshua prayed in the midst of battle (10:9-14).
    - 1. Israel was routing the opposition and night was going to stop the route.
    - 2. Instead of relying on strength of their own, Joshua prays for God to grant more time in the day to finish the route.
    - 3. God then caused the sun and moon to stand still.
  - C. Joshua would not have been successful without prayer.
    - 1. He learned this from Moses.
    - 2. We need leaders who will learn from Joshua to pray.
  - D. God wants to be called on in prayer and is near to help if asked.
- V. Joshua was a man who put God first.**
- A. He put God before the business at hand.
    - 1. Joshua was at the beginning of a military campaign that was forty years in the making.
    - 2. However he still stopped to do what God wanted done at Ebal and Gerizim.
    - 3. This allowed time for the enemies of Israel to unite, but Joshua still put God first (9:1-2).
  - B. Joshua put God before those around him.
    - 1. Joshua did not care who it offended, he was going to follow God (24:14-15).
    - 2. That strong stand influenced others for good (vs. 16).
  - C. When members see leaders put God first, it encourages them to do so.
    - 1. Great things happen when great leaders put God first.
    - 2. In their own lives first and then in the workings of the congregation.

From a sermon by Mark Copeland