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).
   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