

Leadership.is.Influence

»And Joshua said to the people of Israel: «Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God" (Joshua 3:9).

The sixth president of our 250-year-old nation, John Quincy Adams, once said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." The United States of America is where it is today because of both its male and female leaders of the past. Whether those roles be small or large in the sight of men, leadership at its core can be summed up with the word: "Influence." And so that means no matter the role, whether you are a CEO, an owner, a manager, an operator, a mayor, a mom, or a captain on a sports team, you can lead. In fact, seeing this through a gospel lens, aren't we, as Christians, ultimately seeking to lead people to Christ? And don't we accomplish this best through our witness and influence for the Kingdom of God? You see, the bottom line is that no matter the role or title that you have in this life, you can be a leader and influencer for the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the Lord Jesus Christ.

How can you better lead? Well, let me give you a few leadership lessons from one of the many leaders that we read about in the Bible. Joshua, with the obvious help of Almighty God, helped lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. He led with meekness, wisdom, patience, and confidence in the promises of God. And I think we all can glean something from the life of Joshua that will help us in our leadership opportunities as Gospel ambassadors.

1.) Joshua had a great mentor. He was Moses' assistant and literally was trained by one of the best (Numbers 11:28). Dear Christian, find a Christian brother or sister to help mentor and disciple you in the faith. It will pay off in the present and also in the future as you find yourself in positions of influence.

2.) Joshua was a follower before he was a leader. Behind every great man or woman of God is God Himself. Joshua knew that if He was going to lead well, he had to ultimately follow God's will and plan. We see this in many areas, but probably the

clearest is on the outskirts of Jericho, where Joshua trusted God's very unique battle plan over His own.

3.) Joshua meditated on the Word of God. God promised success to Joshua if he would meditate on God's commands day and night (Joshua 1:8). Seek the counsel, joy, and life of God's Word each day for your soul and the souls that you lead.

4.) Joshua dealt with the difficult situations. Every good leader doesn't turn a blind eye to sin, injustice, and unrighteousness... To do the right thing sometimes calls for calling out and handling the wrong things. We see Joshua do this when he had to confront Achan's sin (Joshua 7).

5.) Joshua did not waver in the face of the wickedness of the world. He famously said: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). Leaders have stood out through the pages of history because they chose to stand up for what they believe in. Be strong and courageous and take a stand for God amidst the godless culture.

You may not think that you are a leader... But if you are a Christian, in a sense, you have been redeemed, chosen, and called by Jesus to lead others to Him. And so, like Joshua by the mercies of God in Christ, lead well by influencing others for God and His Glory!

Respect the Blood,

Dalton Mathis