

Sermon Outline by Emmanuel Mantey

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Raising the Next Generation – Kingdom Legacy, Not Personal Empire

Joshua 2:7-12 7So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel. 8Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old. 9And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash. 10When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. 11Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; 12and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the Lord to anger.

This passage paints a tragic but powerful picture of what happens when one generation fails to intentionally raise up the next.

Under Joshua's leadership, Israel served the Lord faithfully. These leaders had seen God's power firsthand:

the parting of the Jordan, the fall of Jericho, the conquest of the Promised Land. Their devotion wasn't secondhand; it was rooted in personal experience and in the remembrance of God's mighty works.

But then, notwithstanding all these, Judges 2:10 paints a very sad picture for us

10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

How do a people (Israel) go from witnessing miracles to not even knowing the Lord?

- Someone along the line dropped the ball: Someone did not do what they should have done
- Discipleship didn't happen.
- Testimonies weren't passed down.
- There was no intentional pouring into the next wave of leaders, no systematic training in God's Word and no cultivating of spiritual memory.

Key Note:

- The next generation inherited land, but they did not inherit faith.
- They were given opportunity but not identity.
- They received legacy but not vision.

As a result: they turned to idols, abandoned God, and ultimately suffered under oppression.

The Man Joshua: Mentored by Moses

Joshua just didn't rise up in a vacuum. He knew the God because Moses poured into him.

- **Exodus 33:11** – “The Lord would speak to Moses face to face... Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua... did not leave the tent.”
Joshua lingered in the presence of God.
He learned to hear God's voice.
He was mentored in the rhythms of intimacy with the Lord.

- **Deuteronomy 34:9** – “Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him.”
Moses laid hands on him—he passed something on. There was spiritual transfer through relationship and intentional mentorship.

This is why Joshua could take over after Moses was gone.

- He had been shaped, challenged, and entrusted.
- He knew the Lord, not just the stories about Him.

What Joshua Didn't Do: Raise His Own Joshua

When Joshua and his generation passed, there was no record of him raising up another like Moses raised him. No mention of a young leader being mentored at his side. No successor being empowered and affirmed.

- The chain of leadership broke
- The leadership baton was dropped.

And Judges 2 tells us exactly what happened next: **a generation rose up that did not know the Lord.**

How can we raise up the Next Generation of Pastors, Apostles, Deacons, deaconesses, Prophets to be faithful to Jesus?

How can we empower them to fulfill the purpose for which God has called them?

1. Don't Think Personal Kingdom, Think God's Kingdom

How can you do that?

By not building ministry around yourself. (I will step on many people's toes with this but...)

- This work of Ministry is not about us.

- We need the humility to recognize that the work we are doing is not for us, it is not about us, it is for Jesus, and the people that He has entrusted us with.
- When we come to that realization, the focus will shift from a me centered walk which is all about us, to Jesus, His mission He calls us to, and People. The fact that we want people to not only be reconciled back to Jesus, but we want to see them impacted, transformed, and used to also impact others to the Glory of God.

Ephesians 4:11-13 11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Note:

- Our focus must be people and not ministry
- Pharisees were ministry and not people focused
- Jesus didn't build a ministry around Himself; He built people who would carry the mission forward.

Many leaders subconsciously build platforms and ministries that are centered on themselves rather than on Christ.

John 3:30: “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

- The question is not: How big can I get? but Who am I raising?
- The goal isn't to preserve a name, but to advance His name.

2. Don't be a One-Man Church

Churches that rise and fall based on one leader become fragile, not fruitful. Should something happen to the leader, everything falls away.

As Israel's leader, Moses was handling every dispute and issue among the people by himself. He sat from morning until evening, judging the people, and it was overwhelming.

Jethro, His father in-law saw this and challenged him, saying:

“What you are doing is not good... You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people.” (Exodus 18:17–18)

So He advised Moses to **raise up capable, trustworthy leaders** to share the load:

- Teach them God's laws.
- Appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.
- Let them handle the simpler cases, and bring the difficult ones to Moses.

This allowed Moses to focus on the bigger picture while empowering others to lead.

Let's look at this verse as well,

1 Corinthians 3:6-7: “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

- When everything depends on one person, we fail to represent the Body of Christ properly.
- Christ is the chief Apostle, Christ is the Chief Prophet, Christ is the Chief Evangelist, ours is to not make ourselves the chief, but servants, through which He is able to raise other servants.

3. Practice Discipleship Over Delegation

- Don't just give them tasks; pour into them.
- **Matthew 28:19-20:** The Great Commission is a call to make disciples, not fans or assistants.
- Discipleship requires time, presence, correction, and care.

Pouring into them

My Example of Guy, Mo, and two others that Cassy and I poured into.

1 growing closer to Jesus, the other 3 serving in the church, one as a Youth Pastor, the others on a worship team.

Shared my life's story with them, spent time with them.

My Next Goal – Pouring into the 10 men from Church I have selected. I see them as future leaders of The Foundry

4. Give Opportunities

- Jesus didn't wait until the disciples were perfect before sending them.
- **Luke 10:1-2:** He sent them out two-by-two while they were still learning.
- Allow the next generation to try, speak, lead, and serve—even if it's not as polished as you would like.

Let Them Make Mistakes: Grace Is Part of Growth

- Mistakes are part of discipleship. Peter denied Jesus, and became the leader of the early church.
- Don't be quick to criticize; be quick to coach.- Culture of Elders are always right, not true. Use the mistakes you make, as learning opportunities.

5. Overcome the Fear that they Might Take Over

- It's God's church, not ours.
- Even Paul experienced others preaching the gospel with wrong motives, but still rejoiced!

Philippians 1:15-18: ¹⁵ It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. ¹⁶ They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. ¹⁷ Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. ¹⁸ But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.

Conclusion: Replace Yourself

- The healthiest leaders are those who are actively replacing themselves.
- Legacy is not about what you build, but who you build up.
- Jesus' model: He didn't stay on earth to lead the movement forever, He left it in the hands of His disciples.

Acts 1:8: You will receive power ... "You will be my witnesses..." it wasn't just about Him, it was through them.

If we want to see a move of God that outlives us, we must:

- Release control
- Raise others up
- Rejoice in their success

We must remember that God's plan is and has always been bigger than ours, and it always includes the next generation.