

Bereans Bible Institute
Module XII – Faithful Shepherds
Lesson 6. Following the Steps of Joshua

I. Exaltation to leadership is from God, not from self-promotion.

A. Luke 14:11 *“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

B. 1 Pet. 5:5 NASB *“You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,”*

C. Luke 16:10-12 *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?”*

D. God is the one who calls “Shepherds” to lead His people ...

1. who are humble and obedient servants
2. have been proven faithful in little things, displaying their reliability with much greater responsibilities.
3. Those who dismiss God’s seemingly insignificant commands (making excuses or nullifying them), have already proven that they will not be faithful leaders in the end times when leadership means life and death decisions.

II. Joshua’s apprenticeship under Moses, God’s “Faithful Shepherd” (Heb. 3:2)

A. Exodus 17:8-16 Joshua was a humble and obedient servant to Moses

B. Exodus 24:13 Because of this, Moses took Joshua with him up Mt. Sinai

C. Exodus 33:7-11 Joshua sought to have a private relationship with God like Moses’

D. Numbers 13:16 & 27 – 14:34 Joshua’s time of testing (faithful in little = faithful in much).

E. Numbers 27:18-23 After having proven himself for 40 years, Joshua became leader

III. Joshua as Israel’s “Faithful Shepherd”

A. Josh. 1:1-18

1. God’s presence would go with him into battle (vss. 5,9)
2. If they obeyed **every** command of God (vss. 7-9)

B. The conquering of Jericho & defeat at Ai

1. All forbidden from taking anything from Jericho (6:17-19,24)
2. Joshua 7:1-26

a. A seeming small offense of one man caused the death of 36 men because God forsook them all.

b. God would not be with them anymore until Achan was destroyed (vss. 10-12)

- c. Yet, He previously promised, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Josh. 1:5)
 - d. It was conditional (v. 7-9)
 - e. When they conquered Ai, they were allowed to take the booty (Josh. 8:2,27). Made no sense to human reasoning, demands blind obedience.
3. Joshua 8:30-35 Joshua reiterates the Commandments of God, Israel learned obedience by suffering the consequences for their mistakes.
- IV. Paul applied many of these principles to Timothy, charged with training "Shepherds"
- A. 2 Tim. 2:1-4 The charge to train "faithful men" as teachers & leaders
 - B. 1 Tim. 3:1-10 Past faithfulness qualifies one to be a "shepherd"
 - 1. First tested with immediate family
 - C. 2 Tim. 2:20-26 Purity, conquering personal flaws, is necessary for God to use us.
 - 1. greed, lust for materialism, status, power, position, sexual lust – disqualifies
 - D. 2 Tim. 2:15 & Titus 1:7-9 Become skilled in the Word
- V. Summary: If you desire to be a "Faithful Shepherd" of God's people:
- A. Study and learn to properly handle the Word
 - B. Cleanse yourself from personal flaws so that you will be fit for the Master's use.
 - C. Be obedient to God's commands, even those that seem insignificant (Prov. 3:5-7)
 - D. Humbly and faithfully serve in the lowest positions
 - E. Faithfully teach your immediate household; model what you teach; teach from humility and by example
 - F. Never try to exalt yourself, but wait for God to exalt you in His timing
 - G. Let God fight your battles (Jer. 17:5-11)

HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR.