

LESSON 2: JOSHUA THE COMMANDER

Biblical Passages: Joshua 1:1-9, 6:1-21; Hebrews 11:30

Everybody serves someone or something. Each and every person, no matter how powerful or famous they are, worships and follows someone or something. People don't get to decide whether or not they will or they won't. The only decision—whether you're a student, a parent, a pastor, or the President of the United States—is who or what you will follow, serve, and worship.

Read Joshua 1:1-9, 6:1-21. In Joshua 1:1 Moses is referred to as the “servant of the Lord.” In the Hebrew, this phrase literally means a slave, servant, or worshiper of God. Yes, Moses held the highest and most influential position among the Israelites, but even Moses answered to someone. In verse 2 we see that Joshua was chosen by God to replace Moses as the leader of the Israelites. And Joshua, like Moses, would lead the Israelites, not as a great public figure or gifted military leader (although he was), but first and foremost as a servant of God. Again, everyone will serve and worship someone or something. A great leader is someone who serves and worships the Lord. As we learn from the leadership of Joshua, the core characteristic of a great leader is not knowledge or charisma, it's obedience and faith. We see this in Joshua 6:1-21, in which Joshua faithfully obeyed God's unusual military strategy for overtaking Jericho. Joshua followed all of the Lord's instructions and lead all of Israel to do likewise. Joshua's obedience wasn't a one-off decision; his faithfulness and godly leadership was daily habit. He woke early every morning to tend to the duties God had given to him and day by day, for seven days, Joshua led the Israelites in a march of obedience around the city.

A great leader is someone who trusts that God will do mighty things, is convinced that God will accomplish the impossible, and bets his or her life on the belief that God will part rivers and break down walls. Joshua showed faith in God by stepping up and filling the void left by Moses, and the Israelites showed faith in God by putting their faith in their new God-appointed leader. Believers today can show their faith in the same way, by filling the leadership roles God has called them to and also by following the God-appointed leaders He has put in their lives.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. In Joshua 6:1-21, we see that Joshua's every day routine consisted of turning to God and His mission first thing every morning. What changes can you make in your life to prioritize God and His plan at the start of every day?
2. Are there commands from the Lord that you are overlooking or neglecting? Joshua and the Israelites followed God's directives to a T as they silently marched around Jericho. How might you adjust course in your day-to-day life so that your faithfulness is complete and consistent, like that of the Israelites in Joshua 6?
3. What leadership role might God be calling you into?
4. Do you have a Joshua figure in your own life? Perhaps you are devoid of a spiritual mentor to give you godly guidance. What steps might you take in order to see that leadership role filled?