

Being a Godly Man: Lessons from Joshua
Exciting First Church of God, Pastor Peter Smith 6-15-14

On this day when we think of Fathers, leaders of godly homes, let's consider some attributes of a godly man of influence: Joshua

1. Joshua influenced his generation:

“After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance...Israel served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the LORD had done for Israel.”

-Joshua 24:29-31, NIV

2. Why would people follow this man? Why would they serve the God that told them about? Because of his godly lifestyle.

3. Here are Five characteristics of Joshua's life for godly men (and women) to follow:

I. Be a Man of Humility

He was a Servant while a ‘nobody’ and then as a ‘somebody’

1. For forty years he served under Moses in the Wilderness

2. He was known as "Moses' assistant", "his servant"

“Moses and Joshua his assistant got ready, then Moses started up the mountain to meet with God....the LORD would speak to Moses face to face, just like a friend. Afterwards, Moses would return to camp, but his young assistant Joshua would stay at the tent.”

- Ex. 24:13; 33:11, CEV

-- Men, do you have a willingness to serve even if you are not recognized for it? Are you satisfied with being ‘behind the scenes’ at your job, in our church, in your ministry? Do you mind the label assistant or servant?

Jesus, the greatest man who ever lived, said he didn't come to be served **but to serve!** And one night he proved it by washing the dirty feet of his Apostles before dinner!

Men, what is your tolerance for humility? For helping / assisting at work or in life without recognition? Let God develop humility in your life starting today.

2. Be a Man of **Faith** and **Trust** in God

A. Joshua demonstrated this when he spied out the Promised Land with Caleb

1. Ten of the twelve spies demonstrated their lack of faith in God by their report - **Num 13:25-28**
2. But despite the "peer pressure" he must have felt, Joshua (along with Caleb) demonstrated his faith in God by his report - cf. **Nu 14:6-9**

B. It was also demonstrated at the Fall of Jericho

1. The Lord gave him the instructions to take the city - **Josh 6:1-5**
2. Only full trust and faith in the Lord could have led Joshua to follow such instructions, but he did! - cf. **He 11:30**

Joshua didn't place his faith in men (including himself); he looked to God! So must we!

3. Be a Man of God's **Word**

A. True success comes from following God's Word

1. Joshua's success came as he fulfilled God's Law
"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go."
-Joshua 1:7, NIV

2. How did Joshua know that he was keeping God's Law? He thought on it day and night

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”
-Joshua 1:8, NIV

B. Godly men share what they learn themselves

The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy,

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching...Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”
-1 Tim. 4:13-16, NIV

Like Joshua, a godly man needs to

4. Be a Man of Prayer

How did Joshua pray?

A. When people failed

1. When they were defeated in battle, Joshua and his elders prayed for hours for them (their sin caused the loss) - **Josh 7:6-9**

IMP: Men, be different: pray when you hear of moral failure, sins, mistakes...encourage instead of joining the gossip train!

B. When things were going well! He prayed during battle (and the sun / moon stood still)

1. As Israel is routing the kings of the south
- **Josh 10:9-14**

2. Joshua had a lifestyle of prayer and seeking God!

Very clearly, as we have seen today, to be a godly man you must

5. Be a Man who puts God first

A. Before daily agendas / business

1. In the middle of a military campaign!

He built an altar of worship, read all the teachings of Moses!
- **Josh 8:30-35**

B. Before others

He cared not what others might do or think, he would serve the Lord!
- **Josh 24:14-15**

C. Godly living can lead others to God

“Israel served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the LORD had done for Israel.” —Josh. 24:31, NIV

Final thoughts...

1. It was qualities such as these that made Joshua the godly man that he was:

- a. He was a man of humility
- b. He was a man of faith and trust in God
- c. He was a man of God's Word
- d. He was a man of prayer
- e. He was a man who put God first

2. His example tells us every person is capable of living a godly life!

Men (and ladies): will you apply these principles to your life today so that God may work in you and through you to bring others to faith in Jesus? Let us pray.