

# Good Words – Leadership Series

## 7 LEADERSHIP LESSONS - FROM MOSES & JOSHUA

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*Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. Exodus 18:21. NKJV.*

*You will need to appoint some competent leaders who respect God and are trustworthy and honest. Then put them over groups of ten, fifty, a hundred, and a thousand. Exodus 18:21. CEV.*

### What is Leadership?

A lot has, and no doubt will be said about Leadership.

- *Committees don't get direction, leadership does.* - Ian Bilby.
- *Leadership is Action, not Position.* - On a picture at Warehouse Stationary.
- *Leaders help people win.* - John Maxwell.
- *Everything rises and falls on Leadership. The key to our success in growing any organisation, is our ability to lead.* - John Maxwell.
- *Leadership is influence.* – John Maxwell.

Pat Williams, the co-founder of the Orlando Magic and author of 92 books, received a well-deserved standing ovation after sharing these seven keys to leadership, summarized in this poem:

*Seven things one must do  
To be a leader right and true  
Have **1. vision** that is strong and clear  
**2. Communicate** so they can hear  
Have **3. people skills** based in love  
And **4. character** that's far above  
The **5. competence** to solve and teach  
And **6. boldness** that has fearless reach  
**7. A serving** heart that stands close by  
To help, assist and edify.*

Right there is a lot of keys to competent leadership! But here's something sobering: the great test of leadership is this – is anyone following?

So, are leaders born, or made? Is it natural, or can we learn leadership? I believe both apply! There is the *Gift of Leadership*, but we can all learn to lead.

## Here's Seven Lessons On Leadership From Moses and Joshua – not in chronological order.

### 1. **The End.**

*“Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.*

*Joshua 1:2. NKJV.*

Moses died. His time had come and now was gone. Seasons come and go. For many things there is a life cycle, and some are shorter than others. God may (and is well able to) remove leaders from positions of power, influence and authority.

We don't cope well with the end of something. We can't bury things easily. We're good at **Commissioning**, but not good at **De-commissioning**.

In the Local Church we often fail to understand that things, (programs, ministries), may have a life cycle, but when the end comes, we try to keep it alive.

*Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm. <sup>2</sup> Therefore his servants said to him, “Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm.” <sup>3</sup> So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. <sup>4</sup> The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her. 1 Kings 1:1-4. NKJV.*

God always has a great way of dealing with our past, telling us what to do in the present, and giving us hope for the future.

Their death, by whatever means it comes, (physical, moral, financial, emotional, spiritual), may be the end result of leaders who have not treated God as holy before the people.

*"God's standard for leadership has always been higher than the standard required for the average believer; therefore, His judgment for leaders is also greater". - David Ravenhill, in his book For God's sake Grow Up.*

How will we be remembered? How we finish is more important than how we start. Finish well! We are remembered for how we finish.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> “Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” <sup>9</sup> So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.

<sup>10</sup> And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” <sup>11</sup> Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”

<sup>13</sup> This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them. Numbers 20:7-13. NKJV.

What was Moses' sin:

- i. He disobeyed. He should have spoken, and not struck the rock in his anger with his rod.
- ii. Lack of trust in God.
- iii. God's Holiness was offended.

Life has consequences. Everything we do has consequences. Sow and you shall reap. Sin has consequences. Faith has consequences.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9. NKJV.*

- Forgiveness = is instant!
- Cleansing = takes a little longer.

Sometimes *the end*, is actually *the beginning!*

This is The Word For The Day, a daily Bible and Devotional Reading, writing by Bob Gas.

**God Has Promised To Be With You.** 29 August 2019.

*As I was with Moses, so I will be with you. Joshua 1:5 NIV.*

The Bible says, '*After the death of Moses...the Lord said to Joshua... "Moses my servant is dead...get ready to cross the River Jordan into the land I am about to give to [you]"*' (Joshua:1:1-2 NIV).

Joshua knew Moses was dead, and Israel knew it too. So why did God remind him? Because Joshua wasn't just following a leader, he was following a legend. Moses had been Israel's security blanket for forty years. He was the quintessential go-to guy. He led an entire

generation out of 400 years of captivity in a single night. He parted a sea with the wave of a stick. He prayed and God rained down bread from Heaven each day. When the nation was about to die of thirst, he struck a rock and water filled canteens.

By any measurement, Moses was a massive success. But why? Was it his ingenuity? His creativity? His genius? No, it was the presence of God in his life.

But now Moses was gone, and for Joshua that was bad news. But the good news was that God remained. *'No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you'* (Joshua 1:5 NIV).

You say, 'But that's an Old Testament promise.' Then read this: *'For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God'* (2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV).

Today, God has promised to be with you. Believe him!

### **Lesson:**

Failure to carefully observe all that God tells us to do can result in the shortening of our lives and the forfeiting of our ministries and places of leadership. When something dies, bury it!

## **2. Gaining Personal Victory.**

*<sup>8</sup> Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. <sup>9</sup> And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." <sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Exodus 17:8-13. NKJV.*

This is about victory in the valley.

Joshua first appears prominently in the Scriptures when Moses chooses him to lead Israel's army against the Amalekites. This was a battle against sin and the flesh and Joshua gained the victory.

*Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'* 1 Samuel 15:18. NKJV.

Amalekites speaks of sinners. This victory is significant for Joshua. He refused to allow sin and the flesh to gain dominion over him.

*If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."* Genesis 4:7. NKJV.  
*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 1 Corinthians 15:57. NKJV.

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.* 1 John 5:4. NKJV.

But how did he win this battle? Not by force of numbers or human effort. The victory came because Joshua was fighting in the valley, while Moses was interceding on the mountain.

Overcoming sin is understanding we are powerless in our own strength. Victory comes as we maintain contact with the power of God, through our own prayers and those of others. Appropriating the finished work of the Cross.

*The issue you don't address today will be the Goliath who attacks you tomorrow.*  
– Jamie Knobel.

We live in such a permissive society, and its values, traits and influence is affecting the church. Divorce rates and abuse in the church, sadly, are almost the same as in secular society.

As in Joshua's day, so today, God is looking for people who are living in victory over sin and self and are prepared to fight until they conquer.

*If I had not been in prison, I would not have been able to achieve the most difficult task in life, and that is changing myself.* - Nelson Mandela

### **Lesson:**

God is looking for leaders who, refusing to surrender to the enemies of sin and the flesh, draw power from His might, then fight until they conquer.

### **3. Patiently Waiting For God's Timing.**


*Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them." Exodus 24:12-13. NKJV.*

Moses takes Joshua with him up the mountain. The people of Israel are left with Aaron and Hur. It would appear that Joshua went some of the way up, but Moses went right up into the presence of God, enveloped in the cloud. During this 40 day period, the Israelites become impatient and take things into their own hands, producing the golden calf. The entire nation, from Aaron down, is involved in this apostasy. Only Joshua is exempt.

Are we willing to wait for God's timing? Or do we become impatient and produce our own *gods*?

When we seek to produce God's promises quickly, we only produce an Ishmael in the end.

*Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;  
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,  
Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Psalm 37:7. NKJV.*

*<sup>7</sup>Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. <sup>8</sup>You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord  is at hand. James 5:7-8. NKJV.*

*So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great. Job 2:13. NKJV.*

Back in my early days as a mechanic, one job we did often was to check an engine's ignition timing. If the spark plug ignited the fuel mixture too early or too late, the engine didn't operate well at all. It was down on power and can even become damaged. All because of incorrect ignition timing.

How desperately we, like Joshua, need to have patience in the things of God. *Wait*: one of the hardest of all of God's commands. But when we wait and surrender to His timing, we will operate on maximum power!

God is never in a hurry. In fact the truth is God is slow. (On our human scale of things).

*True leaders in the Kingdom of God have a sense of timing and commissioning, in order to bring the future into the present. - Mark Chirona "Breaking the boundaries of the possible".*

**Lesson:**

Godly leaders know the secret of waiting for God's timing rather than growing impatient and producing their own gods.

**4. Lingering In God's Presence.**

*So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle. Exodus 33:11. NKJV.*

Here was a young man hungry for the presence of God. He was willing to remain in the tent for the sole purpose of being with God: and not for his next sermon! Joshua knew what it was to spend time with God. Just to be with God, nothing else.

*You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11. NKJV.*

*Let my vindication come from Your presence;  
Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright. Psalm 17:2. NKJV.*

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13. NKJV.*

Many believers today, including leaders, spend little time in the presence of God. There's no substitute for time with God; not just quality time, but quantity time. God wants people, and especially leaders, who know their God. And the best way to get to know Him is by spending time with Him, and in His Word.

We should not expect God to bless our meeting with His presence, we must come into His presence. Leaders must spend time with God.

*Leaders are people who do the right thing; managers are people who do things right. - Professor Warren G. Bennis.*

*It seems to me that there are but few who really live with a passion for God especially a passion just to be with him. Today there is such a noise coming up before the throne of the most high the clamour of so called praise singing and joyful shouting. But I wonder if the same people who love to sing and shout loudly exclaiming the praises of God really have such an intense glory in their secret life with the Lord. When the meeting is over and there's no one there to listen except the only one who matters do you still have the same passion and joy and your*

*spirit just to be alone with the living God?* – Keith Green from Authentic Magazine Pg 33, Issue 7.

**Lesson:**

The next move of God will be led by believers who, like Moses and Joshua, take time to linger in the presence of God.

**5. Growing In Faith.**

*<sup>6</sup> But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; <sup>7</sup> and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them.” Numbers 14:6-8. NKJV.*

Joshua was chosen as one of the spies. He saw the same things as every other spy. He experienced first-hand the amazing and bountiful fruit of Israel's inheritance. He was convinced that entering the promised land was God's purpose for everyone. He sought to encourage the people to believe God's word.

*A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. - John C. Maxwell.*

Why? Because he/she has been in the presence of God and heard His Word.

God wants a people today, who like Joshua, are a victorious voice in the wilderness. Even though met with opposition, sneering, unbelief, fear, he still believed God. God is wanting to raise up a people who will stop at nothing to fulfil His purpose and enter into their full inheritance. What God has said is still valid.

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6. NKJV.*

*<sup>46</sup> Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. <sup>47</sup> And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

*<sup>48</sup> Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

*<sup>49</sup> So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called.*



*Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."*

*50 And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.*

*51 So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."*

*52 Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road. Mark 10:46-52. NKJV.*

### **Lesson:**

Successful leaders focus their faith upon God, His purposes, and His promises and speak the same things, rather than upon giants and reasoned analysis contradicting God's clear command.

## **6. Developing A Serving Spirit.**

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: Joshua 1:1. NKJV.*

Nowhere do we see Joshua striving for position or being critical of Moses' leadership. Joshua was a servant.

*Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old. Joshua 24:29. NKJV.*

How unlike Joshua's spirit is the contemporary emphasis on dominion and the teaching that man's destiny is ruler-ship rather than servanthood.

*And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Mark 9:35. NKJV.*

The way up is down. Now it's true, *Serving* is a Spiritual gift, and some have it more than others. But we must all learn to *Serve*.

God is wanting men and women who will pour out their lives in order that those they lead and serve will be blessed and empowered to fulfil God's purposes.

### **Lesson:**

Servanthood is *in*; self-serving demigods are *out*.

## **7. Possessing a Shepherd's Heart.**

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: <sup>16</sup> “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, <sup>17</sup> who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.”

<sup>18</sup> And the LORD said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; <sup>19</sup> set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate<sup>[d]</sup> him in their sight. <sup>20</sup> And you shall give *some* of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. <sup>21</sup> He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation.” Numbers 27 15-21. NKJV.

Moses knew his time on earth was coming to an end, and he wanted the people of Israel to be shepherded, and not *shepherd-less*. God responded to this request by telling Moses to appoint Joshua to this task.

A great cry of today throughout the body of Christ is for true shepherds:

- Who will care for the flock of God.
- Who will lay down their lives for the sheep.
- Who will feed to sheep.
- Who are prepared to defend the flock against wolves.
- Shepherds who know their flock by name.
- Shepherds whose supreme joy springs from their relationship with the Great Shepherd, and their love for the flock.

We cannot lead the people where we have not been – that’s experience and relationship.

**Shepherd Lessons:** *John 10:1-18.*

- i. The Shepherd is a door.
- ii. The Shepherd gives his life.
- iii. The Shepherd knows the sheep.
- iv. The Shepherd knows the Father.
- v. The Shepherd seeks the lost.

**A Hireling:**

- i. Is not concerned for the sheep like the true shepherd is.
- ii. Performs a task not because of love for the sheep, but for gain.
- iii. Runs at the approach of danger.
- iv. Is only there to be provided for by the sheep.

May God deliver us from hireling-hearted shepherds. Fleecing the flock must go.

*You think the people exist to give you position, but your position exists to give the people freedom.* - William Wallace (Mel Gibson) on the film Braveheart.

**Psalm 23:1-6.**

*The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.*

*He makes me to lie down in  
green pastures;  
He leads me beside the still waters  
He restores my soul;*

Intimate relationship.  
Continuous provision.  
Discipline & restoration.  
Rest & nourishment.  
Refreshing & renewal.  
Emotional healing.

*He leads me in the paths of  
righteousness For His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You are with me; Your rod and  
Your staff, they comfort me.*

Spiritual integrity.  
Continuous presence.

*You prepare a table before me in  
the presence of my enemies; You  
anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.*

Careful protection.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall  
follow me All the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house  
of the LORD Forever.*

With God forever!

**Lesson:**

The supreme joy of a true shepherd springs out of their relationship with the Great Shepherd, and love for the sheep, not from financial gain that comes from fleecing the flock.

*Leaders are dealers in hope. – Napoleon Hill.*

*A sure sign of an effective leader is understanding the nuts and bolts of what it takes to turn an idea into reality. – Bill Hybells.*

*The task of the leader is to get the people from where they are, to where they have not been. – Henry Kissinger.*

*Leaders who hear in God's presence are able to steer God's people. Stephen Whitwell.*

The leadership of Moses and Joshua provides lessons for every believer desiring to develop in maturity and minister effectively bringing Him glory, as a beloved, faithful servant of God.

## Summary.

### 1. **The End.**

#### Lesson:

Failure to carefully observe all that God tells us to do can result in the shortening of our lives and the forfeiting of our ministries and places of leadership.

When something dies, bury it!

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