

PREPARATION FOR LEADERSHIP #1 "Battle Lessons"

Exodus 17:8-14

Intro: The Bible tells of a man named Joshua – chosen by God for leadership; He will bring the people into the promised land. Scrip records a number of mentions of Joshua before he became leader. So we see a pattern of preparation for leadership.

I. HEADSHIP

A. Human natures are natural rebels: We feel we know best and we resent instruction

1. **Judges 17:6** *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

a. Naturally in us: Born in sin b. We may have had bad reference points of authority

2. But this makes us vulnerable **Numbers 12:2** *They said, "Is Moses the only one the Lord speaks through? Doesn't he also speak through us?" And the Lord heard this.*

a. Chap 16/1st part of 17: People speaking against Moses

3. **Exodus 17:8** *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

a. The enemy attacks at this point: We give access to our hearts and we become spiritually vulnerable

B. God's plan in life is leadership/headship

1. Someone ahead of us/above us in authority providing direction for our lives from God

a. **Judges 2:16** *Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.*

1. Judge: To pronounce sentence / to govern / to rule

2. Interesting the 1st mention of Joshua is in connection with headship

a. A man of God gives him instructions to follow in battle

1. **Exodus 17:9** *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." Why me – not Aaron/Hur? Why here? Why now?*

b. Understandings: 1. He cares for me 2. He has heard from God for my life 3. He sees things I don't at this point

C. Your ability to have spiritual authority is directly connected to spiritual authority

1. Joshua taking instruction from Moses determined supernatural power available to him

a. **NLT Mat 8:9** *I know, because I am under the authority of my superior officers and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this or that,' they do it."*

1. I have authority – because I am under authority!

2. This will be tested in many ways

a. Aaron/Hur see Moses' frailty: But their support determined supernatural power in their lives/others

II. BATTLE

A. Not an accident the 1st mention of Joshua involves a battle

1. Leadership in the future is going to be all about battles: Fruitfulness/people/finances/assaults...

2. So a major part of discipleship involves battles

a. Disciples are surprised by this: I said I want to do the will of God/preach – and all hell broke loose!

B. We can make mistakes when this happens

1. Pull away from calling/involvement: *I didn't have these problems before!*

2. Get an attitude towards pastor Moses: *He got me into this!*

C. Battles are actually for our benefit – the future

1. Things you learn now as you battle through will be vital for your future

a. **1 Samuel 17:37** *Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"*

2. A great part of our battle is with Amalek: A symbol of the flesh

a. **Exodus 17:16** *"Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."*

1. The flesh always opposes our destiny in God: We must battle the flesh – not give in to it

III. PRAYER

A. God wants this 1st battle to be a lasting reference point

1. **Exo 17:14 ESVS** *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua..."*

a. Place in the ears to become a memorial: Something you refer to/line up with in the future

2. Battles are determined by prayer

a. **Exodus 17:11** *...when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

1. Prayer is what determines the success of our efforts

3. A leaders job is to pray: Moses job in the fight was to fight in prayer

a. Disciples/Acts: Not good to leave prayer/word b. Later on it would be Joshua fighting in prayer **Joshua 8:18**

1. What kind of future will you have based on your prayer life now?

B. God gets involved with people who value headship/pray & fight through spiritual battles

1. **Exodus 17:15-16** *And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.*