

## PREPARATION FOR LEADERSHIP #4 “Spiritual Encounter and Hunger”

Ex 33:9-11

Looking at Joshua preparing for Leadership. Interesting Bible mentions his encounters with God – and his hunger for God.

### I. VISION AND ENCOUNTER

A. God knew that Joshua had a destiny – to lead God’s people one day

#### 1. God felt it was important that a future man of God needs a correct vision of God

a. A.W Tozer Knowledge of the Holy: What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. ...no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.

#### 2. Men sometimes have incorrect concepts of God – that they transmit to people

- a. False religion (works mentality)
- b. Their own past: Abuse/rejection/demanding authority...
- 1. They make serving God precarious/demanding

#### 3. So it’s clear in Joshua’s training God wants him to see God clearly/correctly

- a. 2 events in Joshua’s life where he was allowed to see God in ways others were not

1. Exodus 24:13 So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

2. Exodus 33:11 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.

#### 4. Important: Both of these involved the failures of people; This is where our vision of God is critical!

- a. When things are going bad/people are doing bad – the issue not what are people like, but who God is!

B. This has to be more than information – otherwise Moses could have simply written/brought the details down

#### 1. A man of God needs to have a personal encounter – a real experience with God

a. 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1. Joshua saw things/heard things/felt things in the very real presence of God

#### 2. This is what will make the difference in whether or not we are able to impact people

a. Moses face shone/had to be veiled because of the glory of an encounter with God; People knew it!

b. Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

1. Makes people want what you have 2. Obvious factor of anointing connected to this

### II. SPIRITUAL HUNGER

A. Ministry is far more than a program

#### 1. If you have been ‘sold’ on the idea of being used by God

- a. When times are tough you will want to bail out
- b. When you’re alone you’ll feel a distance from God

#### 2. This has to come from within us: Not something that is forced or prescribed (you have to do this)

a. Exodus 33:11 ... but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

1. I want God/I want to know God/I want to experience God!

#### 3. Not “I have to” – but I want to! Psalm 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

a. Phil. 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

1. Hunger to read the Bible/to worship/to study & learn about God/to pray

B. This is what makes all the difference in ministry

#### 1. Men who can lead effectively/men of impact are men who have spiritual hunger

- a. It becomes apparent to others: Something flows out of them/through them

1. Men who are great preachers: Preaching/the word of God is their life/their passion; Not just a job!

### III. CHARACTER AND HUNGER

A. This is more than Charismatic goose bumps or searching for a tingly feeling

#### 1. The issue is that you won’t always feel close to God

- a. There are dry times: The good feelings/desires have evaporated – seeped away over time

- b. There are crisis times: When the last thing you feel like is being spiritual

1. 1 Sam 30:6 David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him...

#### 2. These issues are both a test and a discipline

- a. A test because they reveal what’s on the inside: What now?

- b. A discipline: To be able to touch God in times of dryness or trouble

1. 1 Sam 30:6 ...but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. 2. Moses went to God in trouble

a. Where do you go in trouble? Laziness/carnality...or do you to God?