Moses was a leader intent upon pursing change through diplomacy. As we recount his interactions with the Pharaoh, it is obvious that God was utilizing Moses to broker a deal with the Egyptian leaders. Moses was petitioning a super-power to act out of compassion and release a captive people. Through a series of repetitious request, Moses was intent upon reaching an agreement with a peaceful resolution. At times, this appeared as thought it might have worked.

Upon delivering the Israelites to the Jordan, God revealed to Moses that his days on earth were waning and Joshua was to assume the mantle of leadership. While Moses mentored Joshua, the differences in their leadership style are obvious. Moses possessed a diplomatic style, while Joshua was a militaristic leader. We see the Lord lead Israel in a new and appropriate way through this new leader.

The Israelites entered into a season in which they needed cohesion as a militaristic unit in order that they might conquer the foreign lands through a series of military conquests. Joshua’s typology as a leader was a perfect fit. His willingness to do the difficult tasks, in full view of the enemy with an unashamed loyalty to the Lord our God, would inspire his people.

As a result of his obedience and willingness to be the leader God called him to be, Joshua delivered the people to the Promised Land, began reconstruction of Jerusalem and re-established the presence of the Jewish people in their homeland.

We must put God in the forefront of everything else in our lives. He must come first. "When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives. Our love of the Lord will govern the claims for our affection, the demands on our time, the interests we pursue, and the order of our priorities."
I. INTRODUCTION

God has called you to assume the role of leader based on your distinct and unique leadership approach. Therefore, it is understood that you must be the leader God has called you to be. One of the most fundamental aspects of leadership is making yourself aware of your own leadership style. As we discussed last week, through numerous encouragements by God, Moses embraced this truth whole-heartedly and was able to succeed. This week we examine Joshua in order to understand his approach to leadership.

Have you ever taken a countenance of your leadership style? Are you willing to be honest with yourself regarding what type of leader you are called to be? Essentially, you must ask yourself, what type of leader do you WANT to be and does that mesh with what God CALLS you to be? Moses was successful because he gave into God; Joshua was successful because he embraced God’s calling to be the military leader Israel needed.

II. JOSHUA: FAITHFULNESS

A. The story of Joshua is one of transition and transformation. When Moses presented Joshua before the Israelites as his successor, Joshua was not an unknown. If fact, at this point Moses had been mentoring Joshua in an attempt to hone his ability to lead. Like many leaders, Joshua developed his leadership skill set under the tutelage of a great leader. By all accounts, Joshua believed in his mentors position as leader so deeply he took offense at any encroachment of said power

B. READ: Numbers 11:26-30

1. Is there a danger in this type of devotion to a person? ____________________________________________________________________________

2. What does this say about God’s succession plan for the leadership of Israel? ____________________________________________________________________________

3. Are you this loyal to those called as leaders over you? ____________________________________________________________________________

4. What life lesson do we see Moses passing down to Joshua regarding the nature of God? ____________________________________________________________________________

III. JOSHUA: CHARACTER

A. When studying Joshua we have the opportunity to witness the evolution of a leader in its entirety. The benefit in possessing this broad scope of Joshua’s life rests in our ability to compare and contrast Joshua before and after his rise to power. Our ability to know the entirety of Joshua’s life allows us to fully respect him as a
person and a leader. Let us examine scripture regarding the character of Joshua. What are some of the most telling aspects of the man who followed in the footsteps of Moses?

1. Exodus 33:10-11

2. Numbers 14:6-10

3. Numbers 27:18

4. Joshua 8:35

B. The above passages speak of a man compelled to lead God's people through a very trying period of their history. Joshua is exalted as a man who hungered for the Lord. He afforded comfort to a disheveled and discouraged people. By every account Joshua was a man committed to serving the people of God, regardless of the personal sacrifice required. It is impossible to study Joshua and not become overwhelmed by the truly humble nobility he possessed. His loyalty compelled him to serve Moses for forty years. Never once did he surrender his principles for the selfish desires of advancement as leader. Nearly every mention of Joshua is predicated by the reality that he was nothing more then Moses’ personal aide. In terms of his personal status, he might never have aspired to obtain the title of leader. Yet, he embodied the belief that great leaders are people willing to serving others. His dedication to Moses demonstrates his willingness to adhere to God’s plan regardless of personal ambitions.

Exodus 24:13
Then Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God.

Numbers 11:28
Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!

The future warrior king of Israel started his service as the loyal and trustworthy assistant to Moses. Never does Joshua speak ill of his master nor do Joshua’s actions demonstrative of an individual seeking personal advancements at the expense of Moses. Do you and I possess the level of character development as demonstrated by Joshua? Is it possible to demonstrate this level of obedience in context of today’s societal environment?

IV. JOSHUA: LEADER

A. The epiphany of purpose becomes the catalyst by which great leaders establish their authority. Through his tutelage under Moses and his fervent desire to remain in the presence of the Lord, Joshua possessed a truly magnificent concept regarding the purpose of his life. Joshua did not struggle with the notion that God commission his life to be one of complete servanthood. He embraced it.

When presented with the opportunity to lead he fully embraced his strengths. Joshua’s intentions
JOSHUA: WHEN DIPLOMACY FAILS

were to lead according to God’s design. This resulted in a refreshed and reinvigorated leader willing to stand up for Godly principles. He refused to become a mini-Moses. Let us examine how this transformation from aide to king transpired.

1. Joshua: __________________________
2. Joshua was: _________ not _________
3. Joshua knew he was ______________________ by God.
4. Joshua ___________others to believe.

B. As a leader Joshua did not shy away from exhorting those who demonstrated a faltering trust in the Lord’s plan. In fact, Joshua dealt with disobedience through a very direct and intentional approach. He did not coward away from condemning those who were found to be in discord with God’s plan (Joshua 7:1-26, 23:1-24:33).

In his farewell address to the future leaders of Israel, his final exhortation was filled with raw emotion and longing to inspire the men to lead the nation according to God’s perfect will. Let us read his last plea.

*(Joshua 23:6)*

“Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God as you have until now.”

IV. JOSHUA: LEADER

Joshua’s final words reflect his nature as a Godly leader. His words overflowed with passion and demonstrated a consistent unchanging message reflective of his life. If you are to be effective in exhorting God’s people, then it is crucial that your core beliefs align with God’s desires. The Israelites heard Joshua’s words and embraced them, not because he was simply their leader. They took heed of his words because he was a leader who conducted himself according to the very principle he impressed upon them. He was passionate about the purpose of his life and shared it with his people through his governance.

The greatest testimony every recorded regarding the personal character of this man is found in the Book of Joshua:

*Joshua 24:31:*

“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.”

Do you and I have the same inscription awaiting our tombstone? Joshua was a man devoted to God and fully embraced the commission extended upon his life by God. Joshua was a man of many great leadership qualities.

He was a humble leader. He was a leader who trusted completely in God and His plan. He was a leader who put God above selfish ambition. He was a leader who personally associated with God’s Word and his greatest desire became it implementation. He was a leader who prayed relentlessly. At the end of his time, he was remembered as a leader who inspired other to remember God and act accordingly. -ESY