

# **The Life of Joshua**

## **A Life of Practical Faith**

### **Objective:**

A study of the life of practical faith and giving a model for the spiritual leadership that lives on faith.

### **Memory Verse:**

“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you” (Joshua 3:7)

### **References:**

- ⌚ The life of Joshua in the book of Exodus 17, 24
- ⌚ The book of Numbers 11-28
- ⌚ The book of Deuteronomy 31, 34
- ⌚ The life of Joshua in the book of Hebrews 4:8
- ⌚ The life of Joshua, Translated - Fr. Marcos Daoud
- ⌚ The Book of Joshua - Fr. Tadros Y Malaty

### **Introduction:**

- ⌚ Review with the students the previous lesson and verse
- ⌚ Ask them what they know about Joshua and what they think of him

### **Lesson Outline:**

#### **I. The Life of Discipleship and the Call**

Joshua was Moses' disciple and he received the life of faith from him.

In Exodus 17:8-11, Joshua picked out some men to go and fight the Amalekites. Moses and Aaron held up their hands as a symbol of a prayer, work and struggle.

In Exodus 24:13-17, Joshua went up with Moses on the Holy Mountain. The elders waited in the camp at the bottom of Mount Sinai. Moses went up on the Mountain and the cloud covered the mountains. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

When Moses entered the tent of meeting, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door.

Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

When Moses turned again into the camp. His servant Joshua, son of Nun, a young man

did not depart from the tent. He observed Moses and lived through his experiences and gradually God prepared him to be a leader on the hands of Moses.

## **II. Joshua Spies Out the Land Of Canaan**

Joshua is a model of the life of faith

Moses sent one man from each tribe to spy the land. Moses called Caleb the Son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun and sent them to spy out the land of Canaan. He said to them, “Go up into the Negeb yonder, and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is.”

The men returned from spying out the land that flowed with milk and honey. They brought some of the fruit of the land. Caleb said, “Let us go up at once and occupy the land, for we are well able to overcome it. Then the men who had gone up with him said: We are not able to go up against the people for they are stronger than we are. So they brought to the people of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out” (Numbers 13).

Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb tore their clothes and said to the people: “Do not rebel against the Lord, and do not fear the people of the land. If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey”. Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against the people of Israel. The Lord said to Moses; “Your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness; and of all you number, numbered from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against me, not one shall come into the land which I swore that I will make you dwell, except Caleb, the son of Jephunneti and Joshua the son Nun” (Numbers 14).

## **III. Joshua’s Zeal not based on true knowledge**

Eldad and Medad were prophesying in the camp, and Joshua the son of Nun, the minister of Moses, asked Moses to forbid them. But Moses said to him; “Are you jealous for my sake?”

Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put His spirit upon them!” (Numbers 11:28).

The zeal that is not based on knowledge is found in the sons of Zebedee when they asked Jesus to allow them to call fire down from Heaven to destroy the people of a village that refused to receive the Lord. It is the same zeal that drove Saul of Tarsus to persecute the meek Christians in the age of the apostles. It is the same zeal that makes fanatic people blind so that they do not like truth in spite of the enlightenment of the spirit inside them.

## **IV. Joshua is chosen as a successor to Moses**

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 upon him; cause him to stand before Eleazar, the priest and all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give some of your authority to him that all the congregation of the children may be obedient. 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, both he and all the children of Israel with him, the whole congregation.”. And Moses did as the Lord commanded him; He took Joshua and sit him before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, and he laid his hands upon him, and commissioned him as the Lord directed through Moses” (Numbers 27).

Then Moses summoned Joshua, and said to him; “Be strong and of good courage; for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them; and you shall cause them to inherit it. And the Lord, He is the one who goes before you; He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed” (Deuteronomy 31).

(We notice the greatness of submission and discipleship. It is also the style of the monastic life.)

And Joshua the son of Nun was filled of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands upon him; so the people of Israel obeyed him, and did as the Lord has commanded Moses. And there has not risen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

(Notice the importance of laying the hand - that was the way of blessing and sanctification in the Old Testament, and it is now the way of ordination of priests/bishops in the church, since the days of the apostles and till now. (Deuteronomy 34).

## **V. Rahab the Harlot**

The Lords promise to Joshua; “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you, I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and of good courage”. (How lovely this promise is!) The support comes from the Lord, not from the self or the people. The Scriptures says about the apostles, “and those Jesus called...” Make sure your call, as a believer, is a true call to bear witness.

The Lord commanded him; “This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. (If you are called then you shall obey the commandment).

Orders for departure - Preparations for departure - spying out Jericho - The two spies came into the house of Rahab the Harlot - the woman believed; “I know that the Lord has given you the land... The Lord your God is He who is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” She asked them to promise her that they would deliver her and her family from death when they took the town. The two spies promised to do so on the condition that she would not betray them. She hid them on the roof. Then she let them down by a rope through the window. They asked her to bind the scarlet cord in the window. (This is a symbol of the Redeemers blood that delivers from death).

## **VI. Crossing the Jordan**

### **Joshua chapter 3 is to be read**

Notice the importance of sanctification before performing a task (Verse 5). This can be extended to the importance of preparation before attending the liturgy and receiving communion.

Notice that the priests only took up the Ark of the Covenant and passed on before the people. Notice the importance of priesthood as the only people to hold the sanctified objects such as the paten and chalice since the Old Testament.

## **VII. The Encouraging Words of the Lord to Joshua**

And the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to magnify you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you” (Verse 7).

Notice also how a man was chosen from every tribe to cross the Jordan with the priests. (This is a good contemplation that indicates the unity of the community - the people and the clergymen - as all are one family and the children of the house God).

Contemplate the wonderful sight - the water flowing in the Jordan to the Dead Sea - stopped flowing and piled up. The flow down stream to the Dead Sea was completely cut off. The water was like a fence and the people were able to cross over near Jericho.

While the people walked across on dry land, the priests carrying the Lord’s Ark of Covenant stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan until all the people had crossed over.

Notice a very important thing here - The place where the people of Israel crossed the Jordan is called Bethany - it is the same place where John the Baptist baptized the Lord Jesus in the Jordan. The real crossing is crossing from darkness to light and from enslavement of the flesh to the freedom of the Glory of the children of God. This is achieved through baptism and the second birth and entering the Kingdom of God.

One man from each tribe carries a stone - they put twelve stones in the house where they spent the night - each man carried a stone on his shoulder. The Lord said; “This may be a sign among you, when your children ask in times to come, what do those stones mean to you? Then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord; when it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.” (Joshua 4:7). (12 stones from the Jordan -> Replacement of the old bad habits with new good habits. Something buried and something resurrected.)

Study the meaning of the memorial and its importance. Connect this with the Manna and with the Holy Communion, then remember the everlasting living memorial who is the True Manna laid on the altar, i.e. the Holy Body and the Holy Blood of the Son of God “Do this in remembrance of Me”.

The people crossed the Jordan and the Ark of the Covenant also crossed the Jordan - The Lord honoured Joshua in the eyes of his people the Israelites, so they feared him, as they had feared Moses all the days of his life “I honor those who honor Me”. How great the spiritual men of God are!

## **VIII. Circumcision in Gilgal (Chapter 5)**

The Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the people of Israel”.

All the men who came out of Egypt were circumcised. These men died in the wilderness. But those who were born in the wilderness were not circumcised.

When circumcising of all the nation was completed, the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you. And so the name of that place is

called Gilgal to this day". Study the issue of the circumcision and the Covenant between the Lord and Abraham (Genesis 7:9-14). Study also this issue in the epistle to the Romans and the attitude of Christianity to circumcision (Romans 2,25-29,3:29-31, 4:8-12 and Galatians 6:11-17).

They kept the Passover and the Manna Ceased.

They kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening, in the plains of Jericho.

On the morning after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain "And the manna ceased on the morning, when they ate of the produce of the land".

## **IX. Lesson in the life of Joshua**

The issue of faith.

What is faith? (Refer to Hebrews 11): Faith means to believe in the Lord God and to follow His commandments.

What are the obstacles of faith? Fear - Stress - Depending on humans, material, mental and temporal measures.

The relationship between faith and works: Integration between the epistle to the Romans and the epistle to James.

Practical exercise that a young person needs, in this age of ours, where worldly materialistic needs are the focus. Young people need to practice the life of faith, without it we cannot please God.

The issue of circumcision.

It was the sign of a covenant between the Lord and His people.

It was a sign in the flesh, standing for faith in the heart.

As time went by, people left the essence and concentrated on appearance. They neglected the content and concentrated on what appears in the flesh.

Study what Paul the apostle said in his epistle to the Romans: Of what use is circumcision then?

Notice that there are Christians only by name. They pride themselves in being Copts - children of Martyrs - but they are not their children by spirit. This is exactly what happened among the Jews in the days of Christ... They were circumcised, however they didn't follow the law as required.

How was Joshua a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ

Young people can easily make this comparison. The following points are to be considered.

### Joshua

Everyone respected him.

The Lord was with him.

He led the people to the Promise land.

He gave the memorial of crossing the Jordan for generations to come.

He circumcised the people to the promise land.

He made the Passover.

The Lord performed miraculous deeds by his hands, such as the fall of Jericho.

He saved Rahab the Harlot.

### Jesus

He is the Lord Himself who is in the bosom of the Father.

He led the church from the valley of the shadow of death to the everlasting life.

He gave the memorial of His Holy Body and Blood.

He fulfilled circumcision through baptism and for our sake he was baptized in the Jordan.

He was the true Passover through whom we find salvation from sin.

He is the Lord who performs the miracles such as raising the dead, healing the sick, casting demons out and destroying their hidden fences and dark powers.

He is Jesus who came to save sinners and would find in him the everlasting salvation. (Isaiah 61:1).

### **Conclusion:**

Joshua was a great disciple of Moses. He was chosen by God to lead the children of Israel to the promise land. He was submissive to God and God was with him supporting him to a great success. We also can lead Gods children through being submissive to God and being the salt of the earth and light or the world so people can see our good works and glorify our father in heaven.