



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

July/August, 2016

Ingredients for Influence

God calls godly men to have impact for Himself. Whether it's in the home, the church, the workplace, or wherever one goes, Christian men are to set the example and minister to others. Godly men are responsible before God to exercise Christlike influence in all the places where they are. Yet, how does a man become a godly leader? How does a man develop Christlike influence?

In **Joshua 1**, the people of Israel are preparing to cross the Jordan River into Canaan. Joshua has now taken the reigns of leadership over Israel. God had chosen and called him to this position. God had prepared Joshua for this moment. He shaped and molded him to lead God's people and help them accomplish His will. I believe in **Joshua 1:10-18** we see the ingredients for godly influence. Joshua's life reveals those things God uses to shape and mold men to be godly leaders.

The First Ingredient:

A Faithful Past

(Joshua 1:10-11)

In **Joshua 1:10-11**, Joshua gives the command for the people to prepare to cross over the Jordan. In three days, they were going to cross the Jordan to fulfill God's promise to Israel. Joshua takes charge because he has been prepared for this moment by a faithful past. His faithfulness before this time got him ready for this task.

The Bible reveals Joshua's past faithfulness:

Exodus 17:8-16 – Joshua led Israel into battle against the Amalekites under Moses command. He learned that victory comes only through the Lord's blessing.

Exodus 24:13 – Joshua went partway up the mountain and stayed there the forty days until Moses returned in Exodus 32. He learned here of God's utter holiness.

Numbers 13-14 – Joshua was one of the spies sent to spy on Canaan. He boldly proclaimed that they could take the land if they trusted the Lord. He learned here

that unbelief is fatal and that obeying and trusting the Lord is the only thing that matters.

Numbers 27:18-23 – In this text, Joshua is commissioned to be the successor to Moses. He is told here – and it is repeated many times after – that the Lord is with him and will enable Him to fulfill His purpose.

In these texts, we see that Joshua had faithfully served the Lord. In the tasks that God gave him, he diligently worked and obeyed the Lord. In time, God used him in greater ways and gave him greater influence. The eternal rule held good – faithfulness in a few things is the condition to rule over many things. Faithfulness leads to more influence for the Lord and His kingdom.

The same stands true to this day. If we desire to have influence, we must be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. This is the path to opportunities in and influence for God and His kingdom. We have to put our hands to the plough and diligently serve the Lord day by day.

The Second Ingredient:

The Word of God

(Joshua 1:12-15)

In these verses, we see Joshua's instructions to the tribes of Manasseh, Gad, and Reuben. These tribes would settle east of the Jordan River. Moses gave them permission to settle there, if they

helped the other tribes in taking Canaan. He reminds them to remember the words of Moses. These words are recorded in **Deuteronomy 32**.

I believe we see the outworking of what God had already commanded Joshua. God commanded Joshua, "This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" (**Joshua 1:8**).

Joshua had heard, read, and remembered the words of Moses from **Deuteronomy 32**. He then sought to put them into practice. First, he reminds them of these words (**1:12-13**). Their families could stay behind in what would be called Gilead, but their fighting men had to enter Canaan and fight alongside of their fellow Israelites (**1:14**). Joshua then declares that they can return home to their families and livestock once the war in Canaan was over (**1:15**).

In these verses, we see Joshua has influence because he used the Word of God. He didn't spout his ideas; he didn't declare his plans. He simply remembered and made known the Word of God. This is what made him a powerful leader. He was rooted in the Word of God.

If we desire to have godly influence, we must be men of the Word. If we long to be godly leaders, we must root ourselves in the Bible. The Bible is not

meant to be a reference work. It is not meant to be simply a great piece of literature. It is the very Word of God that is to be possessed internally. We are to read it, study it, meditate on it, memorize it, and obey it. Our lives are to be saturated with God's Word.

In **Joshua 1**, God tells him that it is time to take Canaan. When he received this call, he could have formulated a variety of plans. Yet, what does he do? He acts in accordance with the Word of God – the revelation of His will in **Deuteronomy 32**. He moves according to what is written in the Word.

This teaches us that not only do we need to read and study the Word, but we must also act on it. We must strive to obey what we learn from the Bible. This too is at the heart of Christian influence. The insight and wisdom we need to influence others comes from the Word of God (**Proverbs 2:5**). Our lives need to be characterized by living out the truths we learn in Scripture.

The Final Ingredient

Faith In God

(Joshua 1:16-18)

In **Joshua 1:5**, God promised Joshua that he would be with him, "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you." In **Joshua 1:16-18**, he sees that the people are with him. They pledge their

loyalty and allegiance. God has given him what he needed in this first chapter. Now, he must step out in faith and act on the will of God.

God did orchestrate the events of this chapter. He did work in the hearts of the people. Yet, Joshua had to act in faith. He had to do what God called Him to do without flinching, without compromise. That is the kind of leader that people will follow. That person will influence others. The people were ready to go into battle with Joshua because he was a man of faith – faith in God and His Word.

If we desire to influence others, we must be men of faith. We must stand up for Christ and His Word. There can be no compromise, only courage. There can be no turning back, only moving forward in faith.

Praying This Passage

- Ask God for the strength and power to be faithful to Him in His will for your life. Pray that this will prepare you for greater opportunities and service. Thank God for the opportunity to serve Him
- Plead with God to help you saturate your life with His Word. Praise God for His Word. Call on Him to teach you His Word.
- Pray that He will strengthen and increase your faith. Thank for what He has done and for what He will do as you trust Him.

World Prayer Plan

September

- 1-Poland-The Lost
- 2-Portugal
- 3-Puerto Rico
- 4-Qatar
- 5-Reunion
- 6-Romania-The Church
- 7-Romania-The Lost
- 8-Russia-The Church
- 9-Russia-The Lost
- 10-Russia-Mission Efforts
- 11-Russia-Freedom and Peace
- 12-Russia-Spiritual Awakening
- 13-Rwanda
- 14-Western Sahara
- 15-Samoa
- 16-San Marino
- 17-Sao Tome
- 18-Principe
- 19-Saudi Arabia-The Church
- 20-Saudi Arabia-Open Doors
- 21-Saudi Arabia-Persecution
- 22-Senegal
- 23-Seychelles
- 24-Sierra Leone
- 25-Singapore
- 26-Slovenia
- 27-Solomon Islands
- 28-Somalia
- 29-South Africa-The Church
- 30-South Africa-The Lost

October

- 1-South Africa-Political Future
- 2-Spain-The Church
- 3-Spain-The Lost
- 4-Sri Lanka
- 5-St. Helena and Ascension Island
- 6-St. Kittis and Nevis
- 7-St. Lucia
- 8-St. Pierre and Miquelon
- 9-St. Vincent

- 10-Sudan-The Church
- 11-Sudan-Persecuted Believers
- 12-Suriname
- 13-Svalbard
- 14-Swaziland
- 15-Sweden
- 16-Switzerland
- 17-Syria
- 18-Tajikstan
- 19-Tanzania-The Church
- 20-Tanzania-The Lost
- 21-Thailand-The Church
- 22-Thailand-The Lost
- 23-Togo
- 24-Tokelau Island
- 25-Tonga
- 26-Trinidad and Tobago
- 27-Tunisia
- 28-Turkey-The Church
- 29-Turkey-The Lost
- 30-Turkey-Mission Efforts
- 31-Turkmenistan

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