

## **Two Lessons from Joshua**

Scripture: Joshua 2:1 – 4, 8 – 14 and Joshua 3:7 – 17

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Today we will learn two lessons for Joshua.

Our first lesson: In the hospital, did you ever notice a red cord hanging from the ceiling in the bathroom? You are told that if you ever need help in the bathroom, just pull the red cord. A nurse would immediately respond when you pull the red cord.

In our scripture story from the Book of Joshua in chapter #2, you have Rahab. Israelite spies went to Jericho to search out the best ways to attack the city. Rahab, an inhabitant of Jericho, helped the spies and hid them from the king. Rahab was the least likely person for God to employ as an espionage agent. Rahab had three strikes against her.

#1 – She was a Canaanite

#2 – She was a woman

#3 – and she was a prostitute!

Yet Rahab started to believe in the God of the Israelites. She said – ‘Your God is God in heaven.’ So she hid the Israelite spies under flax on her roof and she assisted the spies in their daring escape.

During this unlikely encounter, Rahab expressed her faith in God. And since she harbored the spies, she asked the spies to save her and her family during the impending siege. The spies agreed and told her to hang a scarlet cord from her window so they would see it and save the household.

God rewarded Rahab’s faith and Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute with her family.

Sometimes we might feel that we are the least likely to be used by God. Perhaps we have physical limitation, do not feel flashy enough to lead. Or we may feel that we have a tarnished past, but history is filled with so many people with tarnished past leading others to our redeeming God.

People like Rahab are often given special missions for God's kingdom! Be assured that God has a divine purpose for even the least likely of us! Be assured that God has a divine purpose for each of us! Be assured that God has a divine purpose for you and me!

I have placed on the back table some red cords. If you wish, please take one of the red cords and hang it from a window in your house to let others know that your household is saved through your faith in God and Jesus Christ.

Just as Rahab had faith that the soldiers would see the red cord in her window and save her and her family, we need to believe that God is there for us. All we have to do is pull the little red cord of faith!

Lesson #2 from Joshua:

When your leadership comes from God, stays focused on God. When your leadership comes from God, point people to God. When your leadership comes from God, things are likely to go immensely better. Let me repeat that - When your leadership comes from God, stays focused on God, point people to God, and things are likely to go immensely better.

In our second scripture reading from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, Joshua notice what God told him – *'Today I will begin to make you great in the opinion of all Israel.'* Then God instructed Joshua to command the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant across the flooded Jordan River.

When it was time for Joshua to first show his leadership, I want you to notice what he tells the people – *'Listen to the words of the Lord your God.'*

Instead of saying – This is how you will know that I have been chosen by God to lead you – Joshua says – *'This is how you will know that the living God is among you'*

Joshua does not focus on establishing his own authority in this exercise of faith. Joshua does not command the priests to act out of his own authority. Instead Joshua keeps talking about God. Joshua talks about God's role as the ruler of the earth. Joshua talks about God, the One who is among them!

When your leadership comes from God, stays focused on God, point people to God, and things are likely to go immensely better.

We are all leaders in some capacity. Parents lead their homes. Workers can lead by example in their workplaces even if they are not the boss. Teachers lead in their classrooms. The list of leaders goes on and on.

In leadership, there is an environment most suitable for outright expressions of faith. Often leadership may require subtle examples of faith, but leadership still requires faith. The principles we see in Joshua are the same principles in us. This lesson from Joshua are the same lessons we need to exhibit.

When our leadership comes from God, stays focused on God, point people to God and things are likely to go immensely better.

Let God shape our role. Stay focused on God's call for us in that particular place we call work. Point to God in all things and seek to give God the glory.

You are a leader in some capacity. In leadership there is an environment most suitable for outright expressions of faith. Often leadership may require subtle examples of faith, but leadership still requires faith. The principles you see in Joshua are the same principles in you.

This lesson from Joshua are the same lessons you need to exhibit. When your leadership comes from God, stays focused on God, point people to God and things are likely to go immensely better.

Let God shape your role. Stay focused on God's call for you in that particular place you call work. Point to God in all things and seek to give God the glory.

What a wonderful lesson from Joshua. I bet you that there has been a saint from your past who taught you lessons similar to Joshua. I bet you there is a person who let God shape their role. Who stayed focused on God's call for them and pointed to God in all things and sought to give God the glory. If so please lift them up today during this time of sharing. After every name is lifted up please say – **Thank you for their example.**

(Sharing)

So our two lessons from Joshua are  
#1 – Believe that God is there for you  
and lesson #2 – Leadership comes from God – stay focused on God calling, point people to God, and things are likely to go immensely better.

Pick up a red cord and place it in your window to show that your household is saved through your faith in God and Jesus Christ.

For our virtual viewers, contact me and I will mail you a red cord to put in your window to show others that your household is saved through your faith in God and Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

Dear God, please help us be ready for your calling. Help us to be ready for the missions you might have for us.

O God, our protector, strengthen our faith in you so that our leadership may point people to God and let our lives be immensely better. Amen.