

## 2021 Men's Training Camp - Sunday Breakout Session - Mr. Strain – "Joshua as a Follower"

How much do we know about Joshua?

Exodus 17:8 - Joshua was right there on the scene! "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek." Why Joshua? Did Israel have an army while slaves in Egypt? Of course not. What were they going to fight with? They plundered Egypt, so they likely took a few weapons with them, too. There was no indication that they were ever fighters. Again, why Joshua? Moses perceived that Joshua was the kind of man who could lead a group of men into a fight! He knew him before. He was a valiant man; a **warrior**. He defeated Amalek that day.

24:13 - Moses arose with his assistant Joshua. "Wait here for us." He told the elders to stay lower on the mountain, but Joshua went up with him. He was NOT in the camp or with the seventy elders, we know that. Those elders and Aaron did NOT stay there on the mountain! Forty days and forty nights were too long for them, apparently. Joshua went up quite a while for those forty days and nights, but not ALL the way up with Moses. He could hear the clamoring and partying in the camp. He's **dependable**.

Numbers 11:25 - The spirit came upon some of the elders and two were still in the camp. He was wanting Moses to rebuke them to stop, but Moses tells them it's okay. He was likely a younger man, but over the age of a teenager.

13:30 - Caleb and Joshua became **angry** and **passionate** at the people for rebelling against the clear commandment of God to go in!

27:16 - Moses asked God to pick his replacement. "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the spirit..." He's one of the few in the OT that was truly converted. Then Moses laid hands on him and Eleazar inaugurated him in the sight of the people. This took forty years before he led! He had been a **follower** for a long time! How long would I wait for a promotion? But he was faithful during that time.

32:11-12 - Both Caleb and Joshua were over the age twenty. They have wholly followed. They followed with their whole heart! They weren't perfect, but they were consistent—**steadfast**.

34:17-19 - Joshua was given the responsibility to administrate the division of the land with Eleazar. He was an Ephraimite. Ephraim was a major player in Israel. There are thirteen chosen men here who were told to lead each tribe, but they were to follow Joshua for a time. Caleb was Jewish and was given the leadership of another major tribe. Both were whole-hearted followers of Jesus Christ.

Joshua 24:29 - He is described as "the servant of the Eternal." 24:31 - Israel served God all the days of Joshua, and all the days of elders who outlived Joshua. Some commentaries say he might have been twenty-plus years when he was a follower of Moses. He was sixty-five when he was ordained to lead.  $110 - 65 = 45$  years. This was a longer period of time than when Moses led. He was given the responsibility for a long time. He was a long-time leader after being a long-time follower. "To him who is faithful in little will be faithful in much." The elders who came into the promised land, other than Caleb, were under twenty years old when they came out of Egypt. Those leaders were influenced by Moses, then Joshua, then they influenced those after them.

We do the same in the Church today. We have fifth-generation followers today! Following God's way of life *WORKS*. If we follow long enough—Abraham followed God for over 100 years—then we might have the same opportunities. Abraham followed—in tents, no less—and then Isaac followed, then Jacob, then his sons, and their sons, etc. We're here because of their following! Until Jesus Christ returns, we are to be faithful followers. Mr. Weston exemplifies what happens if you let God lead you. No one at Ambassador College in 1969 would have seen him as the eventual leader of the Church back then, but this is what happens when you allow God to work in your life.