

How Did I Get Here?

In the book of Joshua 1:1, Moses had just died and the Lord said to Joshua, “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.” The Lord also said to Joshua, in verse 5, “There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

But how did Joshua get here? When I was a little girl, we used to play follow the leader. The idea was to mimic what the person in front of you was doing. Being a follower in that game was ok. But being the leader was much more fun; however, there were some consequences if you lead the others in doing what was wrong and get caught; consequences, consequences. The sad part was the follower got the same punishment as the leader.

Understand that when God has a calling on your life, the enemy will try to disappoint and upset so you can lose focus on what you are called to do. Simply put, this is Satan’s job and he’s on the job around the clock, creating ways that he can destroy all of us. He schemed a plan for Joshua to fail, but he could not prevail. Check this out!

When Moses had sent twelve (12) men to spy out the land, (read Numbers 13:30 to 14:9) they all saw the same things, but 10 of them gave negative reports, while only two, Joshua and Caleb, gave positive reports. In spite of the positive reports given by those two spies, the Israelites refused to believe that they could conquer the inhabitants of the land and claim what rightfully belonged to them. The consequence was that they all suffered the same punishment—to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Can you imagine how disappointing that was for Joshua and Caleb? They knew that the children of Israel could have defeated their enemies and take possession of the Land of Canaan that the Lord had promised them. Caleb and Joshua also knew that they would enter into the land of milk and honey; however they had to endure this punishment until a new generation came forth.

Joshua’s greatest disappointment became his greatest blessing. Joshua and Caleb were the only ones from the original children of Israel who were freed from Egyptian bondage to enter into the land of milk and honey.

Now, let’s answer the question, how did Joshua get there? How did he go beyond the negativity, complaining, and bickering amongst the children of Israel, and come out victorious? He applied the following principles:

1. He followed the leader – Moses
2. He never allowed the majority to sway him from what he knew was right.
3. He stayed focused and obedient to the word of God.
4. He did not allow his disappointments to become his disaster.

What was Joshua’s reward? God blessed him. He became Moses’ successor. God never left him nor forsook him.

Let's talk about David and Jonathan. (Reference: 1 and 2 Samuel). Although 1 and 2 Samuel tell the story of how David became King, much can be learned about the friendship, David and Jonathon shared. Jonathon played a very important role in David's life. If there was one word to describe Jonathan, it would be loyalty. Loyalty is a costly quality to have; one has to be almost entirely self-less and giving in order to be truly loyal. Jonathon's loyalty to David often times caused conflict with his father, King Saul. King Saul was jealous of David and wanted to kill him. He was jealous because the Lord had spoken to the prophet Samuel, and anointed David to become King Saul's replacement. God was no longer with Saul. He took his anointing away because of Saul's constant disobedience. King Saul was also jealous because his son, Jonathon, shared such an awesome friendship with David. Saul considered David his enemy while his son, the Prince, considered David a blessing in his life.

Can you imagine how difficult it must have been for David that his best friend's father was trying to kill him? How David handled King Saul's behavior determined his victory. David continued to respect Saul as King and kept his vow never to lay a hand on him, even though there were many opportunities for him to take revenge.

David went in hiding from King Saul and he continued his loyalty to Jonathan and to God. He fought against those who fought against King Saul because they too were his enemies. In the end both King Saul and his son, Jonathan died in a great battle. David then took the throne and his place as King. How did David get here? He had some principles he lived by:

1. He was a worshipper.
2. He was loyal to God and his friend Jonathan.
3. He was a man of great faith.
4. He was quick to repent of his sins.

From time to time, we all must ask ourselves, "How Did I Get Here?" If we are not where we want to be, then we can put the following principles into practice:

1. Never allow disappointments to become disasters.
 - a. Out of your greatest disappointment can come your greatest blessing.
 - b. Just like Joshua and David, you too can overcome your disappointments—one way to do so is by forgiving others, and yourself.
2. Stop rehearsing past mistakes.
3. When things go wrong, speak positive. Use the power of confessing God's Word.
 - a. "It is well!"
 - b. "No weapon formed against me is able to prosper!"
4. In moments of hurt, be sure to speak only to those who you can trust to encourage and build you up.
5. Stay focused.
 - a. When you stay focused on the task or tasks God sets before you, He rewards you.
 - b. Always be prepared for criticism; however, don't let it disable you.

- c. Be strong, steadfast, and consistent.
 - d. Chart your own course.
 - e. Know where you want to go, have a plan in place to get there.
 - f. Always be ready to receive God's instructions, and be prepared for changes.
 - g. Follow God's instructions.
6. Pray always and give God praise—regardless of your situation.

In all this, remember, "The steps of the righteous are ordered by the Lord" (Reference Psalm 37:23).

Who is your Moses? Who is your Joshua? Who are the Jonathans and Davids in your life? How important is God to those you want to be like? Are those who are watching you seeing God reflected in every area of your life? Ask the Lord to lead you to a trustworthy Moses and make you into a good Joshua—people who can mentor, teach and encourage you in the things of God.