

I. Facing Death - Numbers 27:12-14

1. Moses gets to look at the promised land... but not enter
 - A. Go up on the mountain and look
 - B. Approaching death
 - gathered to your people
 - Aaron is already passed over
 - C. Why you will not go in
- Rea -is this fair?
- 1) he disobeyed God's command
- 2) God was "dishonored" before the people by Moses' disobedience
- Rea -is disobedience that serious?
2. This conference was recorded for all Israel:
 - A. Serves as a lesson for all to see
 - B. God shows no favoritism - even to Moses
 - C. Shows that Moses too was part of the group that had no faith to enter Canaan land
 3. The old generation passes away
- Rea -the failures of the older generation should serve as lessons for the younger generation - but do they?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Why allow him to look? - was that a privilege or another punishment?
 2. Are there lessons for leadership in this passage?
 3. Information from this encounter:
 - you are about to die
 - God has not forgotten your disobedience
 - just look - but not touch - what could have been
 4. There is a time for the older generation to "hang it up"

II. Looking to the Future - Numbers 27:15-17

1. Appoint someone (good) over Israel
- Rea -stated almost as a request (prayer)
2. The focus moves quickly to Moses' successor
 3. The next leader:
 - A. Go out and come in before them
- Rea -the image is as a shepherd goes before his flock, so must the leader go before the Israelites
- B. Without a leader they will be like sheep without a shepherd
- Rea -discuss how people are "sheep-like"
- Rea -in our day, our preachers are more preachers (CEOs), and less shepherds, have we lost something?
- C. Leadership in the ancient world:
 - 1) the Egyptians common pictured their Pharaoh with a shepherd's crook
 - 2) the Old Testament routinely pictures the leader (even political ones) as shepherds

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Moses knew these people, he knew they needed a shepherd - we sing “prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love”
2. His attention and concern was for the person who’d lead his “sheep” - if you love people you care about what’s to happen to them
3. At John 10 - Jesus is seen as the good shepherd - so shouldn’t pastors be pastoral?

III. God Provides - Numbers 27:18-23

1. Joshua will lead these people (**verse 18**)
 - for years Joshua had been Moses right-hand man
 - he was used often for difficult tasks
- Rea -do pastors need a Mentee? - do pastors need to be mentoring in anticipation of this day?
2. Joshua had the spirit of leadership dwelt
 - Dt 34:9 says Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom
- Rea -the same quality that was named in the choice of first deacons - Acts 7
3. Eleazar was the new priest (**verses 19-23**)
 - A. He led the consecration of Joshua as the new leader
 - B. Presence of the entire assembly
 - Rea -a public “ordination” service
 - C. Moses was instructed to give him “some of your authority”
 - Rea -lend him your support?? - glory
4. The duties of Joshua:
 - A. Command of the army of Israel
 - B. The priest (Eleazar) would consult God, and Joshua would follow God’s lead
 - he would determine God’s will by use of Urim and Thummim (Ex. 28:30)
 - *heretofore, Moses had both led and spoken for God - seeing Him directly
5. He laid his hands on Joshua - Moses did - this is the passing of the guard - the baton of leadership goes to Joshua
 - Rea -remember the mantle of Elijah fell to Elisha
 - Rea -the “laying on of hands” (in ordination) is falling into disrepute today... is that a good thing? -discuss what this practice means

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Do you think that Moses saw this day coming and prepared Joshua in advance?
 - do you think Joshua saw this coming?
2. What changes between the leadership of Joshua and Moses?
 - what stays the same?
3. Joshua is a mighty military leader in the book of “Joshua” - he goes from one conquest to another... he is just what they need in their current spot (historically)
4. Jesus was “succeeded” in leadership by the Apostles - discuss how the apostles were like and unlike Jesus in leading the church
5. Joshua took the reins of leadership only after a long apprenticeship - so should we