

“The Next Leader!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. I'd like to read a clip from the *Los Angeles Times*, Monday, August 14, 1995 - **Mickey Mantle**, an almost mythical baseball star who feared he had failed to fulfill career expectations because of **alcohol abuse** and whose recent years were haunted by self-recrimination, died of cancer early Sunday. He was 63.
The former **New York Yankees center fielder** and a member of baseball's **Hall of Fame** **said at a July 28 news conference** that he had **squandered a gifted life** and warned admirers **he was no role model**. “God gave me the ability to play baseball. God gave me everything,” he said. “For the kids out there, don't be like me.”
1. Tonight we bid farewell to Moses, but was an exact opposite of Mickey Mantle.
- B. Time to ready Israel for victory! (going into & taking *The Land*)

II. **2ND CENSUS! (Ch.26)**

- A. **IDENTIFYING ISRAEL'S ARMY!**
- B. The taking of the **2nd census** was a sign that the nation's wanderings were **soon to end**.
1. Take a census of all the **men** of Israel who are 20 years old or older, to find out how many of each family are of **military age**.
 2. 38 years have passed since the 1st census (Num.1) & only **Joshua, Caleb, & Moses** remain from the 1st counting.
- C. Note the people in this list who are given **special attention**:
1. **Dathan & Abiram** - who **rebelled** against the Lord. (9-11)
 2. **Nadab & Abihu** - who **defiled** the Lord. (61)
 3. **Joshua & Caleb** - who **believed** the Lord. (65)
- D. The 2nd generation served the Lord effectively. **Read Judges 2:7**
1. They also conquered the Promised Land.
 2. **No subsequent generation ever accomplished more under such difficult circumstances!**¹
 3. Good book for teenagers by **Alex & Brett Harris**, “*Do Hard Things*”, A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations. (Great Blog www.therebelution.com)
 - a) Great challenge to our next generation to “**Transform average teenagers into world-changers, to accomplish incredible things.**”
 - b) i.e. The teen years aren't for goofing off.

¹ Shepherds Notes; pg.77

III. **THE NEXT LEADER! (Ch.27)**

- A. **THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD!** (1-11)
- B. **New problems** give us **new opportunities** to seek God's wisdom & learn new truths.
- C. Here we see James 4:2 played out here...**you do not have because you do not ask.**
1. **Supremely confident** that God would give them the land, they ask if they could inherit their father's land since they had no brothers. (usually got dowry if married)
 - a) The 5 daughters had the courage to ask for their fathers inheritance, & they got it.
 2. God rules & says, "yes" & instructs Moses to grant this request, but with **one qualification**. The daughters must marry men within their tribe of Manasseh (ch.36).
- D. They also had a part in **establishing a law that helped other families** get their inheritance. (see ch.36)
1. Out of the millions of Israelites, I love that God cares for this **one family**.
- E. **JOSHUA, THE NEXT LEADER!** (12-23)
- F. **In our last Olympics, both our men & women 4x100 relay teams lost their race by???**
1. They failed to pass the baton!
 - a) [Darvis Patton to Tyson Gay & Tori Edwards to Loren Williams 1/2 hour later; same curve]
 2. **Businesses, Christian ministries, churches, must learn pass the baton to the next generation.** No one knew this better than Moses.
- G. (12-14) Moses ordered to die!
- H. *The man who parted the Red Sea couldn't cross a little river.*
1. Moses saw but didn't enter the promise land...well, **until** he appeared with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt.17)
- I. What did he do again that was so bad?
1. He **dishonored the Lord** by deviating from His plan to provide water for the people at Meribah.
 2. He had **drawn attention to himself** instead of to God.
 3. He **obscured God's holiness & glory**.
 4. He allowed his **frustration** with the people to momentarily weaken his faith.
- J. Was this hard for him? Did he ever beg for it?
1. See Deut.3:23-29.

- K. Was God being mean by “dangling a carrot” in front of Moses? Take a look, you can’t go!
1. No, it was in fact an act of mercy. Moses was able to see with his own eyes:
 - [1] Canaan really did exist
 - [2] God did bring them all the way there as promised
 - [3] and to know that the last 40 years of his life wasn’t spent in vain.
- L. Canaan **doesn’t** represent **heaven**, but of *the believers inheritance* “He **has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.**”
1. A whole generation **died & never saw** the land.
 2. 10 of the spies **saw** the land for 40 days & then **died** in their **unbelief**.
 3. Moses **saw** the land but **could not enter it**.
 4. The new generation, along with Caleb & Joshua, **entered** the land & **claimed** their promised inheritance.²
- M. (15,16) **Selfless** - As always Moses’ greatest concern was **the people** & not himself.
1. He doesn’t leave **grudgingly**.
 2. He doesn’t host a **pity party**.
 3. His **staff** didn’t need to be pried from his hand.
 4. He **accepted** God’s decision with **obedience & humility**.
 5. He even let **God select** his **successor**.
- N. (17) 3 requirements of leadership:
1. **By Example** - A brief, simple, but expressive eulogy was pronounced by **Martin Luther** upon a pastor at Zwickau in 1522 named **Nicholas Haussmann**. “*What we preach, he lived,*” said the great reformer. I would not give much for your religion unless it can **be seen**. **Lamps do not talk, but they do shine**.
 2. **By Leading** - Matthew Henry went to London, met a young lady of the nobility, who was also wealthy, and they fell in love. She went to ask her father if she could marry him and he said, “He’s got no background, you don’t know where he’s come from.” She said, “Yes, I know, but I know where he’s going and I want to go with him.”
 3. **By Shepherding** -

² Warren Wiersbe; With The Word; pg.101.102

4. **Joshua was: a son** (of Nun); **a slave** (Egypt); **a soldier** (we all remember Moses hands raised & Aaron/Hur holding arms up...who was fighting the battle?); **a servant** (to Moses); **a spy** (A good one); a savior(Moses represented the Law, brought the people to the **border** of the land, but it took Joshua to take them **into** the land); **a statesman**; **a saint** (He was filled w/the **Spirit** of God; He enjoyed the **presence** of God; He was indwelt by the **word** of God; He was ever obedient to the **will** of God)

O. (18-23) Joshua's inauguration or commissioning service!

P. The next leader would need to be a **military leader & warrior!** - Joshua becomes **God's general** who would conquer the land & give the people their inheritance.

Q. By **laying his hands on** Joshua, Moses conferred his authority on him.

1. Note in front of **the priest & them all** (22).

R. **Timeless Principles for Transferring Leadership:**

1. **When God removes, He replaces!**

- a) God never runs out of potential servants.
- b) We should be open & sensitive enough to recognize His replacement.

2. **When God appoints, He approves!**

- a) God wants to bless the work of His new leaders.
- b) Shame on us when we won't give them a chance. (They're too young; to green; to whatever) **Be careful!**
- c) We may **struggle to adapt** to a new leaders **personality & methods**.
- d) We need to remain *open-minded, flexible, & hardworking*.
- e) We should **pray & work** for the success of that person's ministry.

3. **When God sustains, He gives success!**

- a) As long as they **submit to His Spirit**, their work will **bear fruit** for Him.

S. **Have you seen God remove, appoint, or sustain** a Christian leader?

T. **He is a type of Jesus Christ** (Joshua = Jehovah is salvation) **who conquered our enemies for us & opened the way for us to claim all the blessings God had for us.**