

March 3, 2024
Joshua in Moses' Shoes
Series

Text: Selected Scripture

Introduction: Show video *Andy Andrews ~ Amazing Grace*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cINrWlFCPI>

Andy was homeless, sleeping under a pier in Alabama or in someone else's garage. Andy didn't plan on living on the street. At nineteen, his parents were dead; his mother was taken by cancer; his estranged father died in an automobile accident. In his own words, Andy acknowledged, "I took a bad situation and made it much worse."

When did Andy's realization take hold? His discovery process began in the library where Andy read biographies—more than two hundred stories of real people—and the Bible. Andy's mind detected a pattern: successful people's lives exhibit common traits, regardless of their backgrounds, circumstances, and problems. Andy moved to introspection. What if a person copied these traits? Could he adopt the secrets and determine his future? Andy's conclusion was, "Yes." He believed his future could be different. Because he believed, he started making different decisions, and his decisions brought him out from under the pier, and he was on his way to a more desirable and productive life.

Today, Andy Andrews is a successful author and motivational teacher. What does he write and speak about? He talks about character studies—people—and the decisions that enhance life.

Throughout this year, we will consider the lives of different Old Testament saints, trusting that their examples can encourage our lives of faith.

After spending the past three weeks reading in the book of Joshua in our Quiet Times, let's concentrate on Joshua's life today.

In the Bible we first meet Joshua in the book of Exodus (17:8-16) when Moses named him commander of an army to fight against the Amalekites. This was the famous battle where victory came at the raised hands of Moses.

Joshua was identified as Moses' assistant while on Mt Sinai for 40 days (Exodus 24:13) and was with Moses when they returned, finding Israel worshiping the golden calf (32:17). Joshua also served as a sentry at the door of the tabernacle when Moses would enter to speak with God (33:11).

Fast forward to God's call for Israel to leave the wilderness and head into the Promised Land. We know the Sunday school story:

- Twelve spies sent into Canaan. Caleb from the tribe of Judah; Hoshea from the tribe of Ephraim.

This Hoshea was renamed *Joshua* by Moses (Numbers 13:16).

- Although they found a beautiful land, flowing with milk and honey, ten of the spies wrought fear among the people because of the inhabitants there. Only Caleb and Joshua brought favorable reports and nearly lost their lives because of it.
- The LORD pronounced consequences on their lack of faith. (N 14) The complainers/rebellious would die in the wilderness. The spies who discouraged the people would die of plague. Joshua and Caleb would be saved.
- Moses, learning of his soon death, asked the LORD who his successor would be. **Numbers 27:15-18**

Look with me now at Joshua in Moses' shoes.

Joshua in Moses' Shoes

I. Joshua Was Commissioned by the LORD. **Numbers 27:18-20**

- Indwelt by the Spirit, given Moses' authority, confirmed by the priest. (Deut. 34:9 – *full of the spirit of wisdom.*)
- Endorsed as the new leader by Moses. **Deut. 31:7-8**
- God commissioned Joshua in the tabernacle. **Deut. 31:23**
- The people accepted Joshua as leader. **Deuteronomy 34:9**

II. The Lord Was with Joshua.

- God's presence was promised. **Joshua 1:5, 9**
- God's guidance and blessing would be found in the Law. **Joshua 1:8-9**
- God would exalt Joshua ~ *make him great.* **3:7; 4:14; 6:27**

III. Joshua Revered the Lord.

- He listened and obeyed. **Joshua 3:9**
Prepared the people, built the memorials, circumcised the males, followed battle instructions from the Lord.
Revered the LORD's commander. **Joshua 5:14**
- He was zealous for righteousness and obedience. 7:24-26
The sin of Achan.
- He honored the Book of the Law. Joshua 8:30-35
After the defeat of Ai, Joshua reminded the people of the importance of the Law.
- He remained humble throughout his life. **Joshua 23:3, 9-10**

IV. Joshua Was an Inspiring Leader of Israel.

- He supported his spies at Jericho. **Joshua 6:25**
- He was merciful to the Gibeonites. Joshua 9:22-23, 26
Protected them against the Amorite kings. Joshua 10
- He collaborated with his priest and elders. **Joshua 14:1-2**
He oversaw the division of the land, allowing survey teams from each tribe to assist. Joshua 18:1-10
- He was a military strategist. Joshua 8, ambush plan.
- He obeyed the LORD in battle. **Joshua 11:23**
From Jericho to his southern and northern conquests, Joshua followed the LORD's lead.
- He prayed to the LORD in battle. Joshua 10:12-14
He trusted God for extra time to finish the task at hand.

V. Joshua challenged Israel to devotion.

- Joshua was a man of faith. **Joshua 23:5-8, 11**
- He called the people to faithful service to the LORD.
 - A. Everybody will serve somebody. **Joshua 24:15**
 - B. Knowledge must translate into true devotion.
Joshua 24:16-20
 - C. The proof is in the pudding.

This is an expression that means the value, quality, or truth of something must be judged based on direct experience with it—or on its results. The expression is an alteration of an older saying that makes the meaning a bit clearer: the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

The Israelites insisted they would be true to the LORD and Joshua held their feet to the fire. **Joshua 24:21-22**

So What? For sure, both Moses and Joshua had a special calling from God on their lives, and He specially equipped them for the leading required of them, but we can learn and be encouraged in our faith walks by them.

We can remember where we have come from and what is promised to us.

- Joshua had been a slave in Egypt but was promised that land flowing with milk and honey.
- We were in bondage to sin before Jesus set us free, promising us a place with Him for eternity.

We should remember our battles are spiritual ones and that God has promised to be with us through them.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [a]the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 6:12**

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" **Hebrews 13:5b-6**

We can take note that leadership is in a huge way *influence*.

- Joshua did not just tell the Israelites what to do. He gave them an example to follow and worked alongside his countrymen.
- We do not have to fight our battles alone. We have a spiritual family, the Church, that we can edify and that can build us up in return.

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

Questions to Ponder Through the Week
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1. Read Numbers 13:1-14:10 to refresh your memory of the twelve spies sent into Canaan. What were the qualifications of the spies? How did the ten spies embellish their report after Caleb's call to enter the land? What assurances did Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb give the people? Have you ever not been listened to?

2. Moses would soon die and felt the need for a replacement leader. The LORD specifically chose Joshua to fill Moses' shoes. How often does God work in this way? Can you give examples? Why is it essential that people seek God's choices to fill leadership positions? Do these principles reach even into the secular realm?

3. Read Joshua 1:6-8. What proof can you provide that Joshua was obedient to these commands of the LORD? What positive character traits do you see in Joshua that can be attributed to his obedience?

4. Read Joshua 24:14-28. Here Joshua challenged Israel to 100% devotion to God. Do you think he was harsh with his people? Do you think he was being overly judgmental? Do you appreciate others doubting a decision you are making? What methods challenge you the most? Which ones yield the longest lasting commitments?

5. The battles most Christians are facing today fall into the spiritual realm. Give some examples of what these battles might look like. How do you wage warfare in these situations? How have you seen God fight for you?

Sermon Topic for March 10:

Through the Hard Times 1 Peter

The first letter of Peter was written to Christians who had been scattered because of persecution. Peter gave them great encouragement to keep on keeping on. Read the short letter (15-20 minutes) and write down four or five major themes that recur through the letter.