

Weekly Lesson Theme: Mentoring: Investing in Others

Lesson Scriptures: Numbers 27:12-23

Key Lesson Theme: "Moses & Joshua"

Today's Lesson: Wednesday, June 7

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Numbers 27:18-20

18 The Lord replied to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him.

19 Have him stand before the priest Eleazar and the whole community, and commission him in their sight.

20 Confer some of your authority on him so that the entire Israelite community will obey him.

Commentary

The laying on of hands was an important symbolic act. "In this symbolic gesture Joshua was identified with Moses and made his representative for the future. Through the imposition of hands either blessings or sins were transferred, and the one on whom hands were laid became the substitute or representative of the other man . . . Laying on of hands continued in New Testament times to ordain people to church offices (Acts 6:6; 13:3; 1 Tim. 4:14; Heb. 6:2)." [2](#) This was an inaugural step in the transition of leadership whereby Moses and Joshua would jointly lead the people. This transitional period would end with Moses's death.

A more public ceremony would follow. Moses was to set Joshua before Eleazar the priest. This was a community event that included command, covenant, and commission. The event would serve two purposes. Joshua was authorized to assume leadership. It was a sign to the assembly of people that Joshua was to be honored, respected and obeyed as such. Simply, Moses gave his "stamp of approval" to Joshua before the people and empowered him for the task—all under the direction of the Lord, of course.

What are some lessons that come from Numbers 27:18-20?

- God continues to call out people to lead His people in their service to Him.
- An effective leader needs the Spirit of God and the ability of leadership—in that order—to serve well.
- Mentoring includes giving affirmation, expressing trust, and empowering the one being mentored.
- Those who are to be led are to honor and respect those who lead.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday