

Weekly Lesson Theme: Mentoring: Investing in Others

Lesson Scriptures: Numbers 27:12-23

Key Lesson Theme: "Moses & Joshua"

Today's Lesson: Thursday, June 8

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Numbers 27:21-23

21 He will stand before the priest Eleazar who will consult the Lord for him with the decision of the Urim. He and all the Israelites with him, even the entire community, will go out and come back in at his command."

22 Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua, had him stand before the priest Eleazar and the entire community,

23 laid his hands on him, and commissioned him, as the Lord had spoken through Moses.

Commentary

While Joshua was the designated leader with authority, his leadership and authority were to be exercised in accord with godly wisdom and direction. Hence, the will of the Lord was to be sought in making decisions. That was the area in which Eleazar would provide influence. "The transfer of charismatic power is accomplished through the laying on of hands, but conformation of the authority of Joshua must take place through Eleazar."

"In the eyes of the Hebrews, Moses was a unique lawgiver and leader. No future leader would have the same authority." Moses's relationship with the Lord God gave him direct access to God (Num. 12:6-8). Joshua, on the other hand, would be instructed by Eleazar. According to verse 21, Eleazar would seek out decisions from the Lord through use of the sacred lot, the Urim. The practice is strange to us and seems to be an act of making decisions as if by a game of chance. However, use of the Urim was not equivalent to "rolling the dice."

After Eleazar had received counsel (the word is not actually in the Hebrew text but inserted by the KJV translators for clarity) from the Lord, Joshua would lead the people accordingly. The instructions from the Lord were complete. Hence, Moses did as the Lord commanded him, carrying out each detail identified in verses 18-21. Thereby, though Moses would not lead the people into the land given to them by the Lord, he, according to the direction of the Lord, participated in the selection and authorization of the one who would follow him and lead the people into the next phase of possessing the land and further establishing themselves as the people of God.

What are some lessons that come from Numbers 27:21-23?

- A godly mentor hears and heeds the instructions of the Lord concerning those whom he mentors and who will take up the responsibilities of leadership after him.
- All we do—our going out and coming in—is to be in accordance to what the Lord desires and makes known.
- The Lord works in our lives to make Himself and His purpose, plans, and will manifest.
- Leadership and “followership” call for a cooperative spirit.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday