

THE POWER OF EXAMPLE

What does this story tell you about the power of example?

- "If you do not lead by example, you cannot expect your team to follow."
- Example teaches better than precept. It is the best modeler of the character of men and women."
- Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example. **Mark Twain**

1 Corinthians 10.1-13 NKJV “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, (10.2) all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, (10.3) all ate the same spiritual food, (10.4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (10.5) But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. (10.6) Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. (10.7) And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, “*The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*” (10.8) Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; (10.9) nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; (10.10) nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (10.11) Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

(10.12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (10.13) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

In this passage, **Caleb offers his daughter, Achsah, in marriage to the one who conquers Debir.** Othniel captures the city and wins the hand of Achsah.

This story is important because, once again, **it reveals Caleb’s courage, faith, and readiness to take on challenges.**

It also shows that the next generation of Israelites followed the example of these giants of faith, Caleb and Joshua. As the older generation closes their ministry, there is a new generation ready to face the challenges and continue to fulfill God’s plan for Israel.

As Caleb’s promise was reliable, God’s promises are more reliable:

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.”

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV) “Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) “And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV) “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) “You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.”

Power of Example:

1. Being an example is not just for adults:

1 Timothy 4:12 (NKJV) “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

2. Follow those that establish reliable patterns:

Philippians 3:17 (NKJV) “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.”

3. Leave a legacy that will serve an example of those following you:

1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV) “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:”

4. Jesus is the example that molds us:

John 13:15 (NKJV) “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”

5. The Life of the Israelites give us examples not to follow:

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV) “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

6. Understand the importance of leadership influence:

1 Peter 5:2-4 NKJV “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; (5.3) nor as being lords over those

entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; (5.4) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

Read [Luke 18:1–5](#). What lesson is here for us?

Luke 18:1-5 (NKJV) “(1) Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, (2) saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. (3) Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, “Get justice for me from my adversary.’ (4) And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, “Though I do not fear God nor regard man, (5) yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ””

Passing on the torch of faith to the next generation is crucial to the fulfillment of the mission God has entrusted to us.

Think about the challenges of passing on faith to the next generation, on the one hand, and about the opportunities for young people to assume more responsibility in the work of God, on the other.

[What can we do to facilitate and train youth to assume godly leadership? How crucial is our example in this process?](#)