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THE LIFE OF JOSHUA – LESSON 5

ARMORBEARER

An “armor bearer” is one who looks out after the best interest of the one he is to protect. Numbers Chapter 11 shows Joshua acting as Moses’ armorbearer, protecting the uniqueness of Moses’ position and authority as God’s designated prophet for Israel.

The story begins with the people’s complaint about the lack of meat to eat. They had grown tired of just manna every day. They complained about it daily to Moses who grew tired and angry listening to their complaints. Moses took this complaint to God.

God told Moses to take with him seventy elders to the tabernacle of the congregation on the outskirts of the camp. While there, the glory cloud came down and God spoke to Moses and took the spirit that was upon Moses and gave it to the seventy elders who were with him in the tabernacle. The seventy elders all began to prophesy. These were chosen men.

However, there were two men, Eldad and Medad, who stayed at the camp. They were among those written to come but did not obey Moses’ call to go to the tabernacle. Eldad and Medad also began to prophesy in the camp as the spirit also rested upon them. A young man disturbed by this ran out to the tabernacle and reported it. Joshua took the report to Moses and said in Numbers 11:28, **“My lord Moses, forbid them!”** He did not think it appropriate that anyone chosen by Moses to go to the tabernacle, but instead usurped Moses’ authority and stayed behind, should be allowed to prophesy. He was protecting Moses’ position and authority which any good armorbearer would do.

Moses’ reply was that he would desire to see all the LORD’S people become prophets. Moses and the seventy elders then returned to the camp. The LORD replied to their obedience by sending quail to become their daily meat. Joshua’s faithfulness to Moses was demonstrated once again.

Jesus is “our Moses.” We are to be faithful to Jesus as Joshua was to Moses.