

“That day the Lord made Joshua a great leader in the eyes of all the Israelites, and for the rest of his life they revered him as much as they had revered Moses.” Joshua 4:14 NLT

## lectio // Joshua 4:1-24

What did Joshua actually do to receive such a vote of confidence from the Israelites? He listened and he led! He heard the voice of God, who gave specific instructions on what was going to happen, how it was going to happen and what to do after it was over. He listened. Joshua also led, which means that he believed God, had faith and ACTED on that faith commanding the people to do exactly as he said. So in between listening and leading there were moments that Joshua completely trusted the voice of God and had courage to obey. That is exactly why the warriors, the priests and the people trusted him, followed him and honored him as they did Moses. This was a successful succession plan that God orchestrated, Moses agreed on and Joshua stepped into that role, launching his leadership with a miracle. Is there a miracle ahead for me as I step into a new leadership role, following 63 years of pastors who led a local church in Lakewood? There have been tremendous highs and lows over the years. There have been seasons of abundance and seasons of struggle. What does God have for a church, a city and a leader who is willing to listen and lead? We will see won't we?

## oratio

Dad,

The circumstances have definitely changed since Joshua wrote this book on the life and adventures of Israel. However, the model, the lessons have not changed. And, the principles of listening, having faith to believe and obeying to lead have not changed at all. We are still those people who want and need to see you work among us - leading us to fulfill your purpose on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this opportunity to show your grace and power in the cities where we live.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root