

# Judges 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.

## Analysis

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Gideon instructs his men: 'Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.' Leadership by example—'look on me'—demonstrates authentic authority. Gideon won't send his men where he won't go first. His command to watch him and imitate his actions ensured coordinated timing despite lack of modern communications. This principle extends to Christian leadership: Paul wrote 'Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ' (1 Corinthians 11:1) and 'those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do' (Philippians 4:9).

## Historical Context

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Coordinating night operations without radios, signal flags, or other modern communications required carefully rehearsed plans and visible leadership. The three companies were positioned separately around the camp perimeter; each needed to know exactly when to act. By having everyone watch Gideon's company and mirror their actions, coordination was achieved through direct observation despite separation. This leadership style contrasted with ancient Near Eastern kings who commanded from rear positions.



**Hebrews 13:7** (Parallel theme): Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

**Matthew 16:24** (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

**1 Peter 5:3** (Parallel theme): Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

**Judges 9:48** (Parallel theme): And Abimelech gat him up to mount Zalmon, he and all the people that were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it, and laid it on his shoulder, and said unto the people that were with him, What ye have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done.