

Faith Triumphs: Joshua's Commission

Joshua 1:1-9

Main idea: Faith courageously triumphs because our God promises to be with us.

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. **3** Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. **5** No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. **8** This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Introduction

- What is the key to successful leadership?
- Two humbling reminders
 - Your leadership will end, but God's will not.
 - Your success depends on your natural talent but your resolve to see God's word as your chief guide and source of blessing.

"Leadership is the activity of influencing people to cooperate toward some goal which they come to find desirable." - Ordway Tead

Three Overwhelming Realities - (vv. 1-4)

- Moses is dead - **vv. 1-2a**
 - **Exodus 33:11; Deuteronomy 34:1-5, 10**

“Yahweh’s fidelity does not hinge on the achievement of men, however, gifted they may be, nor does it evaporate in the face of funerals or rivers.”

- You are My leader, go! - **v. 2**
- I will fulfill My promises - **vv. 3-4**
 - “I have given”
 - **Genesis 12:7**
 - The first major principle of Joshua: *God’s purposes do not change*

One Empowering Promise: I Will Be With You - (v. 5)

- The promise: I will be with you
 - **Jeremiah 31:31-33; Psalm 139:7**
 - **Matthew 1:22-23; John 14:16-17**
- The nature of the promise
 - “Shall be able”
 - “Just as”
 - **Exodus 3:12; 33:12-16**

Two Critical Imperatives - (vv. 6-9)

- Be strong and courageous - **v. 6**
 - Courage and resolve
- Be a man of the Book - **vv. 7-8**
 - Joshua's guide and our guide

“Joshua knew Moses, the writer of the Pentateuch, personally. Joshua knew his strengths and weaknesses as a man; he knew that Moses was a sinner, that Moses made mistakes, that Moses was just a man. Nonetheless, immediately after Moses’s death Joshua accepted the Pentateuch as more than the writing of Moses. He accepted it as the writing of God. Two or three hundred years were not required for the book to become sacred. As far as Joshua was concerned the Pentateuch was the canon, and the canon was the Word of God. The biblical view of the growth and acceptance of the canon is as simple as this: When it was given, God’s people understood what it was. Right away it had authority.” - Francis Schaeffer

- Joshua's success as the leader depended on four resolves:
 - Joshua must know God’s Word - **v. 7**
 - Joshua must meditate on God’s Word - **v. 8b**
 - Joshua must obey God’s Word exclusively - **vv. 7-8**
 - **Psalm 1:1-4**
 - Joshua must communicate God’s Word - **v. 8**

- Joshua's source of blessing and our source of blessing - **vv. 8b-9**
 - The blessing of the promises
 - The blessing of His presence

The Bible is not a reverent relic to set on our coffee table, but the very breathed out voice of God given to guide us and lead us on our assigned mission.

- **1 Chronicles 22:13**

So What?

- Are you trying to fill or empty someone's shoes?
- Are you practicing the divine formula for success?
 - Am I trusting in God's proven faithfulness?
 - Am I devoting myself to His revealed Word?
 - Am I going?

Now What? (Small Group Discussion)

- Recall and discuss a time when you felt called to do something you were afraid to do. Did you do it? How can this passage counsel us?
- How would you feel if you were Joshua? What was the first conquest of Joshua? What does this teach us about ourselves and our need to battle our inner fears and doubts?
- Reread **Joshua 1:1-9**. Before God's people enter the promise land there is some preparation God begins. What preparation does God do first? Why is this important?
- How does God's view of and methods to success differ from the world's view? Does this passage support a view that God exists to make us healthy and wealthy? Why or why not?