**Rev. Nick Doyle**

**Sermon Notes**

***Victory Through Obedience:***

 ***Lessons from Joshua 8***

**Joshua 8** calls us to remember a great battle—one where Israel, under the leadership of Joshua, moved from defeat to victory. This story teaches us how, through obedience to God, we can *overcome our failures* *and walk in the victory that Christ offers us.* Just as we remember those who fought for our earthly freedom, let us also remember the One who fought for our eternal freedom—Jesus Christ.

**Point 1: Learn from Defeat (Joshua 8:1-2)**

* In **Joshua 8:1-2**, we find a profound message of hope and restoration.
* God speaks words of encouragement to Joshua: "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
* *What we learn here is that* ***failure is not final when we trust in God.***
* *God encourages His people to rise up, learn from their mistakes, and move forward in obedience.*
* ***God did not leave them in their brokenness.***

*After their sin was dealt with, Israel was given a fresh start, a new strategy, and a renewed promise of victory*.

**Point 2: Obedience Brings Victory (Joshua 8:3-9)**

* **Victory in our lives comes through obedience to God’s Word**.
* *“The battle strategy God gave Joshua was unconventional—it involved setting an ambush, pretending to retreat, and then attacking from behind. This wasn’t a plan that would have made sense from a purely human perspective, but Joshua trusted that God’s wisdom was far greater than his own.”*
* When we choose to follow God’s commands***… we position ourselves to experience His power and victory. God’s instructions may not always make sense to us, but they are always perfect and designed for our ultimate good.***

**Point 3: God’s Mercy After Failure (Joshua 8:10-17)**

* God’s plan often uses our past failures to bring about victory.
* God turned Israel’s past defeat into a future victory.
* In Christ, your past does not define you.

**Point 4: Complete Devotion to God (Joshua 8:18-29)**

* Joshua holds out his javelin as a sign of God’s power and Israel’s devotion. This act reminds us that God requires complete devotion.
* We are called to live out our faith openly and fully.
* Are you fully devoted to God in every area of your life?

**Point 5: Remember and Renew the Covenant (Joshua 8:30-35)**

* The victory wasn’t about military success—it was about staying faithful to God and His covenant.
* Do you regularly take time to renew your commitment to Christ?
* *“After each success or blessing in life, we must remember to give glory to God and renew our dedication to Him.”*