

Joshua

1 – Being on the Brink

Joshua 1.1-9

Anytime you face a transition, there is an accompanying anxiety – people deal with this different ways

- Run – Anesthetize – Look for Companions

Joshua took leadership on the brink of the Promised Land

- He was stepping into something already in progress – standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before (1.5, Deut. 34.9)
- More than having the Spirit with us, like Moses, we have the Spirit in us because of Christ
- GOSPEL

God's Call to Joshua (and to us): Be strong and courageous...but why?

Challenge: Leadership (v.6)

- A people to lead – but their track record wasn't all that great
- A past to overcome – Moses had tried this and failed (Numbers 13-14)
 - But their fathers' rebellion wasn't about them but about God (Num 14.9)
- In leadership, God's promises and His reputation are at stake
 - True in any sphere: family, friends, spouse, work, church – always people and pasts involved
 - Obstacles lie ahead – leadership decisions must be made and they won't be easy
 - If the leader focuses on self (a.k.a. takes it personally), he loses the perspective of God
- Two things we're still working on:
 1. Spanish-Speaking Ministry
 2. Church plant

Challenge: Obedience (v.7-8)

- Two choices: Clarity or Compromise
 - There is a standard – culture doesn't set it (absurdity reigns and confusion makes it look better)
 - Confused about success, sexuality, path of salvation – what it all leads back to is Jesus
 - Success – faithfully doing what God has called you to do
 - Sexuality – faithful fulfillment inside the covenant of marriage, faithful chastity outside the covenant

- Salvation – one way, not many ways
- Any variation is disobedience – “be VERY strong and courageous”
 - These are not days when we can afford to be anything less than very strong and courageous
- Clarity comes from the Bible
 - Memorize it and meditate on it – meditate was to mumble it (why the mouth was involved)
 - You don’t have to understand it or see its relevance initially to be convinced of its truth

Challenge: Emotions (v.9)

- Joshua: grief (Moses had died), doubt (land to conquer), insecurity (people to lead) ILL: not sleeping on Saturday nights
- God knew Joshua would face fear and discouragement
 - Some live by their emotions instead of hearing God say be strong and courageous
- Emotions are great companions but terrible guides in life
- God promises His presence
 - It won’t always be easy – some of His promises are not fun to hear
 - But God is with us – He is better than success or ease

Questions for Discussion

1. When was the last time you / your family faced a major transition? What happened? How did it go? Would you do it again (given the option)?
2. Read Joshua 1.5 at least four times. How would your next week change if you “mumbled” the truth of that verse throughout your week?
3. What leadership roles have you held? What roles do you hold? What do you find most difficult in those roles?
4. How does (or can) remembering that God’s promises and reputation are at stake affect your leadership?
5. Trent mentioned three areas of confusion and compromise in our culture: success, sexuality, and the path of salvation. Do you agree? What are some examples? What would you add to the list?
6. What was the last Scripture verse / passage you memorized? What is a passage / verse you can commit to memorize as a group?
7. In your life, how have you seen emotions be terrible guides? How can we align our lives to God’s call to “be strong and courageous?”