

Joshua

Part 13 – Word and Witness

Joshua 22

Principle: God's faithfulness frees us to be faithful

What is Faithfulness? (21.45)

- Count on Him 100%
- A.W. Pink: He never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits His word.
Attributes
- My circumstances don't change His character
 - If it doesn't feel like God is faithful, maybe I'm on the wrong timetable or holding on to the wrong word
 - In Israel's case, the Promised Land was harder and took longer than they expected
- Jesus is the guarantee of God's promises to us (2 Cor. 1.20)
 - We have His promise and His power, but we also get access to Him personally

What does it look like in our lives? (v.5)

- Allegiance to God
- Intimacy with God
- Service of God
- Pastoral aside: when at a crossroads, ask what allegiance demands, what stokes intimacy, and what provides opportunities of service

In what areas are we freed to be faithful?

- Changing Stages of Relationships (v.1-4)
 - Joshua's fear could have kept them there, but his hope was in God
 - He sent them off with blessing (v.6)
- Generosity (v.7-9)
 - They were to share their wealth with those who hadn't even fought in the battles
 - Why? Because God owns everything – they were sharing HIS wealth, not theirs
 - Dealt with the fear of not having enough – God is faithful, so He will see that I have enough
 - For us: tithing and offerings
 - More than money – time, forgiveness, help / service

- Tough Situations (v.10-34)
 - Reuben and Gad felt like outsiders and acted accordingly without breaking God's law
 - "on the side that belongs to the people of Israel" (v.11)
 - Phineas and the rest reacted accordingly – dealing severely with sin
 - Two good habits:
 - Listen before acting
 - Own your part (fear for the Reubenites and Gadites, exclusion for the others)

Owning your part is true in our relationship with God too – 1 John 1.9

Questions for Discussion

1. What is one story from your life that you can clearly see God's faithfulness on display?
2. In your life, how strong is the temptation to get God on your timetable instead of you getting on His? Why is that? How do you find patience working itself out in other areas of your life?
3. Pick any chapter in any of the Gospels to read. Look for allegiance to God, intimacy with God, and service of God. Where do you see them? What are the challenges associated with them? What was the outcome?
4. The principle of the sermon was: "God's faithfulness frees us to be faithful." In light of the changing nature of relationships and the tough situations that often arise in relationships, how do you apply this to your life today?
5. How does God's faithfulness free us to be generous? In what areas (those mentioned or others) do you feel challenged? What is one step you need to take to rise to the challenge?