

DISCIPLE



Volume 23, Issue 9

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

September, 2018

Making Disciples for Jesus

402 S. Ballenger Hwy. Flint, MI 48532 Church: 810-239-6200 School: 810-239-6733
Website: stpaulflint.com Email: Churchoffice@stpaulflint.com

“Be Strong and Courageous!”

"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." (Joshua 1:9)

After Moses died, Joshua became the leader of the Israelites. He had been a helper to Moses and was one of the two good spies who reported that the land they were about to enter was flowing with milk and honey and that the Lord would deliver the land into their hands. Yet, there was fear among the Israelites. Some of the people of the land were very big, like Goliath of Gath. There were many of the Israelites who still wanted to go back to Egypt, before they would all be wiped out.

Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them." (Numbers 14:6-9)

Being strong and courageous is less about being armed than it is about faith. If fear fills the heart, there is little room for faith in the Lord. If we trust the Lord to be with us, take care of us, protect us, and be our leader - He will give us the strength and courage that we need to do His work. For example, the Lord led the people to walk around the fortified walls of Jericho for seven days and on the seventh day walk around seven times and play trumpets. Think about it, the people of Jericho were watching a parade, the people of Israel were doing the Lord's work. And the walls came tumbling down and the city belonged to the Lord.

No matter what kinds of walls you are up against, the Lord can get you through it. It is a command and a promise. He commands you to be strong and courageous. And He promises to be with you wherever you go. He who came from heaven to save you from your sins, will be with you. Trust in His promises!

In Christ, Pastor Walsh

P.S. This is our theme verse for this year...be strong and courageous.