

GRADUATES AT THE CROSSROADS

Joshua 1:1-18

May 17, 2009 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. High School graduates are coming to the most intense crossroads of your lives.
 - 1. You may become almost intoxicated by your newly acquired freedoms.
 - 2. You may even become a little frantic to realize that you're basically on your own now.
- B. Does God have anything to say to you now that you're at this crossroad? I believe He does.
 - 1. Joshua, the successor to Moses, found himself at a similar crossroad when he assumed leadership of Israel.
 - 2. Moses led Israel out of Egypt and through the vast wilderness for 40 years.
 - 3. It would be Joshua, however, who would take over leadership from Moses and finish the job he started.
 - 4. God gave him some words to help him in his this new direction his life was taking.
These same words are appropriate for graduates today as well. What does God say?

I. FIRST, THE PAST IS PAST.

- A. This is what God told Joshua—1:1-2a.
¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead.....
- B. Graduates, your High School days are also over.
 - 1. Your carefree days of eating at Mom's table are over.
 - 2. Your being grounded because of bad grades is over.
 - 3. Your loss of your car privileges is over.
 - 4. You are probably excited by this, but some you may actually look back longingly on the safety and security of home.
 - 5. Do you remember Lot's wife? She looked back and God froze her like a pillar of salt.
 - 6. The message here is that we can't look back. Moses is dead. The fun filled days of High School are over.

II. SECOND, THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT.

- A. God had a bright future planned for Joshua—1:3.
³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.
- B. God also has a bright future planned for you. How can we be sure our future is bright?
 - 1. First, because God says he will be with us—1:9.
⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."
 - 2. Second, because God says he will take care of us—1:7b.
.....Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.
 - 3. Third, because God says he will give us rest—1:13. This means if we trust him he will give us rest from worry, fear, and anxiety.
¹³ "Remember the ^{command} that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land.'

III. THIRD, THE COMMAND IS CLEAR.

- A. God's first command is to stay strong in him—1:6.
⁶ "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.
- B. God's second command is to stay on track—1:7b.
.....Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

C. God's third command is prepare yourself—1:11. God takes care of us but he expects us to do our part.

¹¹ **"Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"**

D. God's fourth command is stay in the Word—1:8.

⁸ **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.**

IV. FOURTH, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE SURE.

A. What happens if we don't follow God's commands—1:18.

¹⁸ **Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey your words, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"**

B. The Israelites had an object lesson of what happens? It was Moses. He rebelled against God's word when he struck the rock when God told him to speak to it. The result was he died in the wilderness and never entered the promised land. Be sure you don't miss God's promised land for you.

CONCLUSION

A. Graduates, you are at a major crossroad in your lives.

B. Listen to God's word for you.

1. The past is the past.
2. The Future is bright.
3. The Commands are clear.
4. The Consequences are sure.