

New Vision

Minor League • Fear and Faith • Joshua 1:1-9; 6:1-27 • 04/15/2018

Main Point

People of faith approach obstacles not with fear but with confidence and trust in the Lord.

Getting to know me:

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Courage defined is “the ability to do something that frightens one.” What is something that you are afraid of and why?

Where do you think fear comes from?

Why do you think fear is so debilitating for us?

We all experience fears on a daily basis. The story of Joshua reminds us that when we encounter big obstacles, we can approach them with confidence and trust in the Lord. Prayer brings courage to our biggest fears and greatest dreams as we trust the Lord’s promises

Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and throughout their wilderness wanderings. But God did not allow him to enter the land of promise. He died after viewing it from a mountain. God chose Joshua to take Moses’ place and to lead His people into the promised land.

Into the Bible:

Why does God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous so many times in chapter 1?

The opening words of this book are, “After the death of Moses ...” Why do you think Joshua would have been afraid?

In the first chapter of Joshua we find the Lord giving instructions to Joshua. What were some of those instructions?

Which of these instructions do you relate to, or need to hear, most? Why?

The Lord commanded Joshua to be strong and very courageous to carefully observe the whole instruction Moses commanded him. The instruction hadn't come from the mind of Moses but from the heart of God. As God's servant, Moses simply reported what the Lord had told him to say. Following the Word of God was to be the basis of Joshua's power and authority in leadership. More than merely teaching the law to the people, Joshua personally was to obey the whole instruction. He was not to deviate from it to the right or the left.

If Joshua obeyed the Lord, what would he receive in return?

The Lord told Joshua, "you will have success wherever you go" and "you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do". How would you define success? How does the world define success?

The Lord promised Joshua that as he stayed true to God's Word, he would have success wherever he went. God was leading Joshua to take His people into the land of promise. If Joshua would continue to trust and obey God's Word, he would be successful wherever he "set foot" (v. 3) in the land God had promised to His people. God's pledge to Joshua isn't a formula for attaining success in self-centered endeavors

Isaiah 35:4

Joshua stepped into the courage that God had called him to. Share a time in your life where you were courageous.

Why is courage contagious?

Joshua 1:16-18

Into the Bible:

Why does God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous so many times in chapter 1?

Application:

We know that God has clear plans for our lives. Is God currently calling you to step into courage in an area of your life? If so what is it?

Is God currently calling you to be courageous in a area of your life?

Jeremiah 29:11

How does it motivate you to step into the calling that God has on your life knowing that He is with you?

Commentary

Joshua 1:1-9

1:1. The death of Moses created a leadership vacuum. Joshua son of Nun, who had served Moses, identifies Joshua as the one who had been with Moses since Exodus 17. That he “served Moses” (cp. Ex 24:13) uses a different term than “Lord’s servant.”

1:2. God commanded Joshua to prepare the people to cross over the Jordan. The fact that all the people were involved emphasizes the importance of unity among the people of God. God emphasized that the land was something He was giving the Israelites; it was God’s grace, not the efforts of the Israelites, that provided the land.

1:3. Repeating the emphasis on the land as God’s gift, it now included every place where the sole of your foot treads. Although the “promised land” is normally understood as something that God promised Abram, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen. 12:1-3), here God attached the promise to Moses.

1:5. The reference to as long as you live looks to the end of Joshua’s life, concluding this “Table of Contents” in verses 2-5. The promise I will not leave you anticipates the plea of Gibeon in 10:6, “Don’t abandon your servants,” using the same expression. Likewise the verb forsake occurs again in Joshua, in Israel’s promise of loyalty to God (“abandon” in 24:16,20). This verse forms a hinge, concluding the previous sections of promises and introducing the next section of responsibilities. God’s promise of His presence occurs again in 1:9 and thus provides an “envelope” to 1:6-9. All the responsibilities of these verses depend on God’s presence that guarantees the mission’s success, just as Christ’s presence enables His disciples to achieve their mission (Mat. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15,20; Acts 1:8).

1:6. God’s command, Be strong and courageous, already spoken by Moses to Israel, appears three times here. The expression is used before great undertakings, like David’s charge to Solomon to build the temple, King Hezekiah’s encouragement to his subjects to withstand the enemy’s siege (2 Chron. 32:7), and Joshua’s own charge to Israel to fight (Josh. 10:25).

1:7. The word success (Hb sakal; cp. “succeed” in v. 8) is found frequently in the Wisdom literature to describe one’s mastery of the world and insight into its challenges (“wise” in Prov. 1:3). The whole instruction (Hb torah) describes God’s revelation in the form of the previous books of the law of Moses.

1:8. Two more references to the instruction affirm the key importance of God's revelation. Study and learning of it are to form so much a part of one's life that the words are fully obeyed as in Deuteronomy 6:6-9. The "frame" of God's promised presence in Joshua 1:5,9 indicates that Joshua's success will come because God is with him, enabling him to read and observe God's word (Eph. 2:8-10).