Sermon Notes & Study Guide

Joshua 1

God calls you to something greater and gives you the courage to move forward.

The story of the Bible
God created---God rejected---God promises---God appears---God sends---God restores

Theme: Israel is to take possession of God's promised land!

God has called you to three things!

- The Call to Go (v.1-5)
- The Call to Courage (v.6-9)
- The Call to Missional Community (v.10-18)

75% reported greater regret over things they had not done than over things they had done. (Gilovich & Medvec, 1995, Psychological Review)

I. The Call to Go (v. 1-5)
After the death of **Moses** the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to **Joshua** the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, [2] "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore **arise**, **go** over this Jordan, you and all this people, **into the land** that **I am giving** to them, to the people of Israel. [3] **Every place** that the sole of your foot will tread upon **I have given to you**, just as I promised to Moses. [4] From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. [5] No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **I will not leave you or forsake you**.

The Ethics of War
Genesis 15:13-16

[13] Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be **afflicted for four hundred years**. [14] But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, ... [16] And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**”

1. God is calling you to be born again.
2. God is preparing you for a mind-blowing inheritance.
3. God is challenging you out of your comfort zone.

II. God has called you to have Courage (v.6-9)
[6] Be **strong and courageous**, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.
[7] Only be **strong and very courageous,** being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. [8] This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
[9] 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.”

Where has God called you to go?

a. To the promised land (salvation)
b. To make disciples (Matt 28:18-20)
c. To sanctification (1 Thess 4:3-7)

III. God has Called you to be in Missional Community (v.10-18)
[10] And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, [11] “Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within **three days** you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”
[12] And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, [13] “Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, ...all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before **your brothers and shall help them,** ...
[16] And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us **we will do**, and wherever you send us **we will go**. [17] Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so **we will obey** you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses![18] Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. **Only be strong and courageous**

Study Guide

- What did God speak to you this weekend?

Read Joshua 1:1–5

- What does it mean to be in the Promised Land?
- Where has God called you to go?
- What fears do you have about going there?

Read Joshua 1:6–9

- How does God give you courage?

Read Joshua 1:10–18

- How are you tempted to stay comfortable?
- What does it look like to be unified as a community?
- How are you on mission together?