

The Response of the People

Purpose: to encourage the congregation to follow leadership and prepare themselves for service.

The book of Joshua begins with a direct charge to Joshua, and God gave him specific instructions with a promise:

Jos 1:1 - After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

Jos 1:2 - "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

Jos 1:3 - Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

Jos 1:4 - From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

Jos 1:5 - No man shall *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

Jos 1:6 - Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Jos 1:7 - Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

Jos 1:8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe 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.

Jos 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

God told him to go, and to lead the people and he gave them the boundaries of their territory. Joshua was giving promises that would be fulfilled when he obeyed:

- No man shall be able to stand before you
- I will be with you the way that I was with Moses
- I will not leave you nor forsake you

He was given encouragement:

- Be strong
- Be of good courage
- Don't be afraid
- Don't be dismayed (shattered, broken down, beat down)

He was given specific instructions:

- Observe to do according to all the law that Moses commanded
- The law of the Lord must not depart from his mouth

- He must meditate in it day and night
- He must observe to do all that is written in it

He was given assurances:

- You will make your way prosperous
- You will have good success
- I commanded you to do this – not on your own
- The Lord your God is with you wherever you go

All of this was given to Joshua and his leaders. This is an example to our leadership team here:

- God is telling us to go and to lead the people
- He is giving us specific people to reach and minister to
- There will be opposition, but they will not prevail against us
- We must be strong, courageous, unafraid and have faith
- We must make sure to observe to do all that God tells us in His word
- He promises to make our way prosperous and to give us success.

But what did Joshua say to the children of Israel? He told them what God wanted them to do:

Jos 1:10 - Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

Jos 1:11 - "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.' "

Jos 1:12 - And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying,

Jos 1:13 - "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.'

Jos 1:14 - Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them,

Jos 1:15 - until the LORD has given your brethren rest, as He *gave* you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

Jos 1:16 - So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

Jos 1:17 - Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

Jos 1:18 - Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

We need you to follow us! What did Joshua command the leaders of the people to do? Prepare provisions for yourselves: Allow God to shape you as much as you can so that you will be able to stand during this evil time:

Eph 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Eph 6:11 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Eph 6:13 - Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Mat 25:1 - "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Mat 25:2 - Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

Mat 25:3 - Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

Mat 25:4 - but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Mat 25:5 - But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

Mat 25:6 - "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

Mat 25:7 - Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

Mat 25:8 - And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

Mat 25:9 - But the wise answered, saying, '*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

Mat 25:10 - And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Mat 25:11 - "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

Mat 25:12 - But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Mat 25:13 - "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

How do you find God's purpose for your life?

1. *Do the simple things* – go to church, read the bible, pray, worship God at home, attend our homegroups. If you don't do the simple thing that God tells you to do, how can you ever do great things?
2. *Be willing to serve* – make yourself available, give someone a lift home who needs it, help in the garden or with maintenance, babysit, use your resources for God's kingdom and glory. In God's kingdom, we descend to the top!

Mat 20:26 - Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

Mat 20:27 - And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—

Mat 20:28 - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

3. Talk to a friend or relative about Jesus – invite them to church, share your testimony (when they ask):
4. **1Pet 3:14** - But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed.
"AND DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR THREATS, NOR BE TROUBLED."
1Pet 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
1Pet 3:16 - having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.
1Pet 3:17 - For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Conclusion

- As a leadership team we are going to do our best to be strong, courageous and to obey all that God commands us to do, so that our way will be prosperous and that we will have good success.
- God wants us, as a body of believers, to do the simple things (make the things that we set up for you as priorities, like home groups, fellowship groups, and even simply coming to church regularly).
- God wants us to be willing to serve, and he will give you opportunities to do so.
- God wants us to talk to others about Jesus, whenever the opportunity arises.