

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Joshua – Message 3

2018 VISION: *Mission Jerusalem: Reach* ①

Scriptures for Today: Joshua 1:10-18 – Joshua prepares Israel to enter God’s promises.

Today’s Message: A Dangerous Settlement – *There is a cost to choosing to forsake God’s best!*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we were reminded of the impossible task that was set before Joshua. However, he was assured by God of His presence and help! God inspired Joshua to *be strong and of a good courage* to accomplish His work. Today, we will witness Joshua’s **assurance** as he tells his officers it is _____ to enter *the Promised Land!* And, we will pause with him as he reminds the 2 ½ tribes (*Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh*) about their commitment to Moses related to the land of *their _____*. They will promise sincerely and very confidently to help their brethren before returning to the land of *their choice* on the _____ side of Jordan. We will learn a valuable life lesson today about how **not** to **settle for less** than God’s **best**. And, we will see the **danger** and **risk** that is present in our lives when we try to live a “lukewarm” Christian life with 1 foot in the world and 1 foot in God’s promises...

LEARNING TOGETHER

1. The Text Joshua 1:10-18

✓ *Joshua prepares Israel to enter the Promised Land...*

- **Courageous Assurance** – Joshua _____ on the *courage* and *assurance* he had received.

1:10-11 “... for within three days **ye shall pass** over this Jordan, **to go in to possess the land**, which the LORD your God **giveth you to possess it.**”

- **Conditions Reviewed** – Joshua _____ the 2 ½ tribes of their *previous commitments*.

1:12-15 “**Remember the word** which Moses... commanded you... **Until the LORD have given your brethren rest**, as he hath given you...”

- **Compliance Promised** – The 2 ½ tribes were _____ in *their ability to obey* Joshua.

1:16-18 “**All that thou commandest us we will do**, and whithersoever thou sendest us, **we will go...** Whosoever he be that doth **rebel... death...**”

2. The History Numbers 32

✓ *The 2 ½ tribes made a promise to help fight in exchange for the un-promised land.*

- **Worldly Vision** – They liked the _____ side of Jordan because of **worldly** pursuits. They wanted what they could **see** – good **business** opportunities. (\$)

- **Worldly Choices** – They knew God’s _____ was on the other side and did **not** want it. They traded a **promise** of God’s best for **perceived** worldly benefits.

- **Worldly Motives** – With a “lukewarm” heart, they were willing to _____ God’s people inherit the promises, but they **wanted** to be back on **the other side**.

NOTE At first Moses was angry with them for such worldly thinking that had previously led the children of Israel to wander 40 years in unbelief! A compromise was achieved with conditions related to the men of the 2 ½ tribes committing to go to war and help their brethren fight to gain the land God had promised to them. It does not appear that Moses consulted God on the compromise. It was settled.

3. The Lessons Genesis 13; 1 Chronicles 5:25-26; Luke 8:26-39

- ✓ *The 2 ½ tribes were repeating the **error** of Lot who made choices based on **worldly benefits**.*

- **The Example of Lot** – When Abram and Lot separated, Lot chose with his worldly eyes.

Gen 13:10 “And Lot **lifted up his eyes**, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was **well watered every where**, before the LORD destroyed Sodom...”

The Cost: Lot thought he was choosing the best, but it came with a cost.

- It cost him his _____.
- it cost him his _____ and his _____.

Learning: We must not repeat their **error** – the **same error** made by Lot!

- ✓ *The 2 ½ tribes would be placing their lives and their families at **great risk of future peril**.*

- **Assyrian Invasion** – The choices to forsake God’s best and sin eventually found them out.

1 Chr 5:25-26 “And **they transgressed against the God of their fathers... king of Assyria**, and he carried them away ...” (Reubenites, Gadites, ½ Manasseh)

The Cost: They minimized the seriousness of a decision to live away from God.

- Forsaking God’s best, they put themselves and families in _____.
- Far from God’s _____, they **compromised** with the world’s sin.
- They wanted God to _____ their worldly plans; they were **overrun**.

Learning: We must **obey** God’s Word **completely** – for His sake and our safety!

- ✓ *The 2 ½ tribes would ultimately have a legacy of disobedience and forsaking Jesus Christ.*

- **The Gadarenes** – The GAD-ites would become pig farmers who rejected Jesus Christ.

Luke 8:26-39 “And **they arrived** at the country of the **GAD-a-renes...**”

The Cost: They are still in animal business; now Christ-rejecting pig farmers!

- They have a **heritage** who knew God, but they are _____ from Him.
- Worst of all, they _____ the **personal invitation** and love of Christ.

Learning: **Obey God**. we must **start** well; we must **finish faithfully** and **strong!**