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"Moses is Dead"
Joshua 1:1-5

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Discussion Questions

1. What do you think spiritually about John Wooden's quote "When opportunity knocks, it's too late to prepare"?
2. Are you someone that likes to learn from others or learn from your own mistakes? How do you think Israel learned?
3. Have you ever felt like you missed a spiritual chance? Do you remember really taking a spiritual opportunity? What happened?
4. What are ways we are sometimes tempted to go outside the "boundaries"? Why?
5. Do you think God's promise to be with him encouraged Joshua? Does it encourage you? Why?

Teaching Notes

Do you like do overs? Second chances? Taking a mulligan?
For what kind of things?

Last week we talked about the idea that God makes promises and many of them involve our participation.

After 400 years...

...the promised land of Canaan was ready to be given...
...but they had to take it.

There had been a lot of waiting...

...but sadly when God was ready, the people were not.

They had come to the edge and experienced failure.

They had focused on...

...the greatness of the giants not the greatness of the Lord.

They had looked at...

...the strength of the giants instead of the strength of their God.

And though Moses was a great leader...

...Moses didn't make it in either.

Big Idea: The key to entering the Promised Land is faith in the God who makes the promises.

The faithfulness of God is the foundation for our faith in God.
And our faith in God is the key for us to enjoy His promises.

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: 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.

Message title is "Moses is dead".

John Wooden, "When opportunity knocks, it's too late to prepare."

Moses is dead, but Joshua is ready.

How can we be ready when our time comes?

1. Get ready for tomorrow today.

Put yourself in a position today so you are ready...

... for what God has for you tomorrow.

I don't know if Joshua knew he would lead Israel after Moses.

- But the first time we see Joshua is obediently leading a battle
- We find him again waiting for and serving Moses on Mt. Sinai
- Later, he is 1 of the 12 spies and 1 of 2 with a good report

“He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander,” Aristotle

Faithfulness in a few things is the condition of rule over many things; and the loyalty of a servant is the stepping stone to the royalty of the throne.” FB Meyer

Moses was dead, but Joshua was ready because...

He had waited, he had been faithful, he had been willing to serve.

The children of Israel were also now ready.

God had provided for them, protected them, and purified them.

Before, they were self focused, fearful and fleshly...

...and they had no room for faith in God.

“You are my people & I am your God” didn’t make sense.

The couldn’t trust beyond their fears and fleshly desires...

...they faltered, they failed, and they fell in the desert.

But this new generation...in Deuteronomy 4:4 Moses said,

4But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive to this day, every one of you.

They had similar experiences as the first generation...

...but they were ready because of different choices.

God doesn’t change, but we don’t all have...

...the same experience with God.

That is part divine calling and part personal choice.

This happened in Jesus’ time as well...

It took hundreds of years for the Messiah to come...
...some were ready and some were not.

Many in Jerusalem, Bethsaida, and Capernaum saw the miracles
...but didn't receive Him, & Jesus' reaction was rebuke.
(Matthew 11 and Luke 13.)

But there were others that were ready.

They had followed John the Baptist.

They were looking for the Messiah.

And when Jesus arrived, they were ready to enter in and engage.

And some became His apostles.

Timing belongs to the Lord, but readiness belongs to us.

So...after the failure of the first generation...

...they were getting another chance.

2. Take your chances.

• **Second chances take two.**

• Someone has to be willing to try again.

• Someone else has to be willing to let you try again.

And most second chances are not cheap or easy...

...it took 40 years to get back here and Moses is dead.

Moses led them to the edge but was not able to enter.

Moses had misrepresented the Lord, and God said nope.

Many things can be repaired...but not everything.

Even when it is repaired...

...it can take time, and grace and sometimes a miracle.

**God is a God of second chances...but we should never...
... presume on or think we are entitled to it.**

Grace is a gift we do not deserve and are not guaranteed.

After the first time they failed...they tried again real quick...
They saw God's judgment and displeasure and tried a quick fix.

*"Now we are ready to go up to the Land the Lord promised.
...Surely we have sinned!"*

But God was not in it.

Moses warned them the Lord was not with them...
...But they rushed in and acted presumptuously...
...and just what they feared happened...they were beaten.

We need to make sure the Lord is with us before we go.

*We may want to try something or do something **but it may not...**
...be what God has for us or when God has it for us...
...and we need to trust Him in that...
...He is the Lord and we are His people.*

So be careful how you respond to God...

If your heart is open, if your ears hear, if your eyes see, respond.

Seize the opportunities you have to obey God and walk by faith...
...because you don't know when you will have another.

This is actually the same message of Hebrews in chapter 3 and 4.
**Hebrews 3:15-16 "Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." For who, having
heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of
Egypt, led by Moses?**

—> Moses is dead, but God's promises are not.

**The promises & purposes of God are beyond one individual-
...God uses finite people for His infinite work.**

Men and women will fail and fall, but God's work will go on.
God said to Joshua, Moses is dead but **you** will go over.
...which I AM giving them.

Moses is dead...but Joshua is ready.

The last point from this statement is regarding typology...
A biblical type is someone or something that represents a bigger
someone or something.

Moses represents the Law and Joshua is a type of Christ.

The Law will never get you into the Promised Land.
The Law will never open the door to enjoy God's promises.

The Law only shows us our inability...
...The Law shows us the standard of God...
...and reminds us we don't measure up we need a Savior.

Faith is what opens the door...
...Faith in Christ opens the door to the life of God's promises.

In Christ, you and I are dead to the Law...But alive to Christ.
**Romans 7:44 Therefore, my brethren, you also have
become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may
be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead,
that we should bear fruit to God.**

The Law is dead, but God's promises will be fulfilled in Christ.

Now God has specific promises and directions...

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

What a powerful promise! There are two parts here...

Every place **you** put your foot is yours **within** God's boundaries.

3. Work within the boundaries.

God has a great land for them, but Joshua must step in and work.

There are literal action steps necessary to enter.

He is not going to conquer in his heart or invade virtually.

...Joshua is going to have to step in.

So too, we must take steps to enter in...

...Good intentions are not going to get it done.

What work are we talking about?

We are talking about the work that strengthens our faith.

5 Simple Steps to Enter

1. Read the Bible regularly
2. Meditate on Scripture consistently
3. Gather to worship frequently
4. Pray together unceasingly
5. Turn from sin and obey the Lord normally

These are simple but important ways for us to do the work that will help us go deeper.

—>**Work, take the steps, BUT stay within the boundaries.**
For Joshua, this is not a global conquest.
Joshua is not going to try to conquer Greece or Asia later.

**If you want His victory and His blessings...
...you need to work within His boundaries.**

We must be ready and be willing to work within His boundaries because we are seeking His blessing.

God gives us many choices...the boundaries are pretty big.
...But there are boundaries.

Some choices feel good or safe or right in the moment.
...But if they are outside of His boundaries...
...they are not good or safe or right.

- If you spend time reading only spiritual romance novels
 - Or you meditate mostly on Tick Tok posts...
 - Or your church is only the ocean or the golf course
 - Or you only gather when it is convenient.
 - Or you only pray at mealtimes
 - Or you only turn from what **you** think is sin and obey what **you** feel like doing.
- ...You won't go much deeper and you will be weaker.

**There are an enemies to our spiritual life...
The world, the culture, and the devil will always lead us away
from God's boundaries.**

God's boundaries are truth and justice.
...to work within the boundaries we need to stop lying or cheating.

God' boundaries of blessings are kindness and love.

...We stay away from meanest and malice.

God's boundaries of blessings are purity and holiness.

If we want to work within His boundaries, we stop having sex when we are not married, we stop lusting after what is not ours.

This is not about keeping the Law to bring us blessings.

It is not "If I do this God will be happy and bless me!"

This is about understanding and trusting that God's design is good and living a life in fellowship with Him is a blessing.

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.*

This is the nation's second chance to enter the Promised Land...
...But this is Joshua's first chance to lead the nation.

So God reminds Joshua, even though Moses is dead...

...I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

No one will be able to stand before you because I stand with you.

"as I said to Moses, as I was with Moses"

Different time, different season, different plan...but the same God.

4. Keep your faith in the Lord.

Big Idea: The key to entering the Promised Land is faith in the God who makes the promises.

If we want to be able to enter when it is our time...
If we want to go deeper when the Lord calls...
We need to keep our faith in the Lord.

Each point this morning is anchored in faith.

By faith, Get ready for tomorrow today.

By faith, Take your chances.

By faith, Work within the boundaries

The faithfulness of God is the foundation for God's promises.
And our faith in God is the key for us to enjoy His promises.

So remember...

**He is with you, He won't leave you, He won't forsake you...
...do not be afraid...you can do it because He will help you.**

By faith, we must enter and engage if we want to enjoy.

The Call of Joshua

1. **Enter**...take steps to go deeper with God.
2. **Engage**...take actions to participate with God.
3. **Enjoy**...receive the results of a richer life with and for God.

