



SCRIPTURE

Joshua 9

OVERVIEW

We can often find ourselves living with an expectation that life with God is an upward trajectory with things getting better as the years pass. Although Jesus has won for us eternal life with him and the promise of knowing his grace, mercy and hope in this life the truth is life is full of ups and downs. Chapter 9 of the book of Joshua shows us two important things about failure.

1. Failure is a reality

Our Part

For Joshua and the people of Israel their failure in this part of the story is found in verse 14 where we read that they did not ask counsel from the Lord. The sin of pride that is a battle every heart faces draws us to look away from

God and towards ourselves, thinking we know best.

All of us will fail, sometimes that will be due to our sins and other times due to the fallen nature of our World.

However failure comes we need to be like Joshua and respond in a godly way:

1. Face our failure - V16
2. Face the consequence - V19
3. Learn from it - V22

We also explored how we can grow in knowing the counsel of God.

1. Knowing Gods Word - He speaks to us primarily through the Bible
2. Prophetic - He speaks to us through prophecy.
3. Conscience - He speak to us through our conscience, knowing the presence or absence of peace.
4. Counsel - We need others wisdom to help us know the will of God.

The enemies part

For Israel and Joshua we see they have 2 enemies in this chapter. The first are the 6 kings who come together will the tactic of destruction. The second of the Gibeonites whose tactics are deception.

So it is for us, our enemy is not flesh and blood (Eph6:12) but our adversary is the devil (1 Pet 5:8).

He has 2 key tactics as Joshua's enemies in chapter 9, Destruction (John 10:10) and deceit (Gen 3:1)

2. Failure is not fatal

We see in this passage that failure is not the end of the story. Verse 27 we see the Gibeonites becoming cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and altar of the Lord. Even our failure the Lord uses for our good and his glory.

He promises throughout scriptures that he will never leave or forsake us.

He promised to Moses - Deuteronomy 31:6

He promised to Joshua- Joshua 1:5

He promised to Solomon - 1 Chronicles 28:20

He promised to us - Hebrews 3:5

Jesus Christ is our redeemer, he has made it possible that failure is not the end of our story but we can know hope throughout life's ups and downs.

DISCUSSION

1. How do we respond to failure in our lives?
How can we grow in responding a more godly manner?
2. How can we grow at knowing and spotting the enemies tactics in our life?
3. What impact does knowing you have been redeemed in Jesus have on your life today?