

Joshua



Joshua

Scripture Reading

Joshua 24:13-15 (NKJV)

13 I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Introduction

As we look back over the past years that God has called us together to be a Church—a people, a family a community, we can look around the room and say thank you to the Lord for bringing each other into each of our lives. We didn't know how good the Lord would be, and how special each of you would be and we can clearly look at the hand of the Lord in each of you.

We are never alone on this faith journey and the Lord reminds us today that He's serious about fulfilling His promises to us and to fulfill His will in our lives.

In this series we've explored:

- Noah the preacher who preached about floods years before they came.
 - While he preached he was building
 - He was ignored until the day the floods came
 - His faith in God saved his family and remnants of creation allowing God to start over with mankind
- Abraham the one who left his many gods to follow the One True God to a place that God would show him
 - He journeyed to a place with no address, no landmarks, just two commands - "Go" and "You're here"
 - God led him to the place before His promises were even manifested yet, yet Abraham was full of faith to go and receive the promises by faith

Each of these men were pioneers! But today's message is about Joshua. He wasn't a starter but he sure enough was a finisher!

When His Name Comes 1st

- Son of Nun and of the tribe of Ephraim (one of the two tribes of the sons of Joseph)
- Originally called **Hoshea** - meaning "help, rescue, salvation, deliver"
- He was one of the 12 spies that went into Canaan to spy out the land of milk and honey. As he went on the reconnaissance mission, Moses changed his name from Hoshea to Yashua or Joshua invoking the Name of the Lord in his name—this now meant "The Lord is our salvation, our help, our deliverer"
 - This was a shift from Hoshea being 'a person' who can be a rescuer to 'The Lord' rescues through you.
- There's a difference between you doing something versus the Lord doing something through you!
- It is through this same root name Yashua that we get JESUS — "The Lord our Salvation."
 - "And you shall call His Name Jesus for He will save the world from their sins!"

When His Will Comes First

- Joshua's relationship to Moses was very close
- Joshua was involved in almost every major step of faith that Moses took
- From leaving Egypt to climbing the mountain to seek the Lord, Joshua

- went as far as he was allowed to go even seeing the very feet of God
- He was involved in every battle
 - He knew how to be on the front lines and also to lead in a commanding position
- He was militant and respected among the people
- He didn't lead like Moses, yet the Lord said, "As I was with Moses, so shall I be with you!"
- While Moses led the children of Israel across the Red Sea, Joshua took them over the Jordan into Canaan.

Joshua's Encounters with God

- Every person's encounters with God shapes the kind of person they become and how God uses them.
- Each encounter with God also shapes the way they lead
- Moses saw the burning burn and turned aside to see it, the Voice of God spoke to Him and God said take off your shoes from off your feet for the place you're standing is Holy Ground,"
- God made Moses' staff turn into a serpent before his eyes to prove His authority
- Moses performed many visible signs in Egypt to prove God's authority
- Moses learned the Holiness of God, and then the visual display of God's power.
 - Everything else that God did through Moses had a visual manifestation
- Moses doubted himself and so God showed him what He could do!
- Joshua's encounters with God were different
- Joshua while staying close to Moses recognized early that if he wanted to have a closer walk with Yaweh, he'd need to spend more time in the tabernacle.
- The Scriptures record him spending time in the tabernacle of the Lord—**listening for the voice of the Lord.**
- At the end of Numbers, Moses lays his hands on him and anoints him to lead Israel
- In Chapter 1, he hears the voice of the Lord
- In Chapter 5, he meets the Angel of the Lord as the Captain of the hosts of Heaven with a sword drawn
 - He learns quickly that God was not on Israel's side nor on the side of their enemies but required Israel to be on the "Lord's side."
- In Chapter 7, he hears the militant voice of the Lord telling him to stop praying and get up and go deal with the sin in the camp!

- **God speaks directly to Joshua:** "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? Israel has sinned..." God gives instructions for identifying the guilty.
- In Chapter 10, he boldly prays to God that the sun would stand still over Gibeon and the Lord commands the sun to stand still — essentially stopping time itself while the battle waged on and was won!
- Joshua learned the authority and power of God and did so by staying the tent and **listening**.
 - His leadership began and continued in what he heard from the Lord and how he moved obediently
 - Exodus 33:11 (NKJV) 11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.
- The Lord appears to him once and it was with a sword drawn!
 - Signifying the strength, authority and uncompromising Nature of the Lord
 - Joshua's response was to humble himself before the Lord

Lessons Learned from Joshua

- There comes a time when God shifts from proving Himself visually to us!
 - We've seen enough to know He's real
 - We've been through enough experiences with Him to know that He's there, He cares and He has a will that needs to be followed and surrendered to
- God's power and authority was not less because chose to "speak" and not "display" but to obey God when you hear Him is to set your own insecurities aside, take the focus off of you and put it squarely on the Lord.
- Know that God is able to do 'exceedingly and abundantly above what you can ask or think' and that He will complete what He has promised!
- God is looking for those who will hear His voice and obey
 - No matter the cost
 - No matter who won't come with you
 - No matter who doesn't understand it
 - No matter who supports it or affirms it
 - Obedience doesn't ask for votes or popular opinions nor requires a lot of visual proof.
- Visions and encounters, prophecies and signs may draw you to follow God but Obedience gets you to the destination.
- Hear the Lord and follow what He says.

The Warnings of Joshua

- Israel's long standing sin before the Lord was that AFTER seeing all of the miraculous things that God had done in their midst, they still went after other idols.
- They were slaves to what they SAW as a sign of the divine.
 - They sought an IMAGE where God wanted them to HEAR His voice!
 - Exodus 20:4 (NKJV) 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
- After leading Israel through Canaan and leading them to several victories, Joshua warns Israel not to return to the gods of their forefathers.
 - Polytheistic worship
 - Idol worship
 - A form of godliness but denying the true power of God
 - Religious substitutes for Him but not Him.
- Israel responded to Joshua's warnings "yes yes, we will serve the Lord, we won't forsake the Lord," "we'll follow what you've said;" And they gave him every false affirmation they could to try and appease his sense of urgency and warning for them.
- At the end of Joshua's life, he had left a legacy of obedience but by the beginning of the book of Judges, every thing Israel said they would do, they turned away from and another generation arose that didn't know The Lord.