

Legendary Heroes:

Joshua – Fear and intimidation

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1. HOW INTIMIDATION WORKS:

- 1.1.** The root of intimidation is fear. Fear causes people to focus on themselves instead of focusing on God.
- 1.2.** When we submit to fear and intimidation we lose our position of authority.

2. TWO REACTIONS TO INTIMIDATION:

- 2.1.** **False humility** – you avoid all confrontation. You are a peacekeeper instead of a peace maker. You ignore situations and hope that they will go away.
- 2.2.** **Pursuing power and control instead of character** – You are unwilling to deal with anger, unforgiveness and bitterness. You hide your issues and you're usually loud and in your face.

3. REASONS FOR INTIMIDATION:

- 3.1.** **Physical** – Maybe you are not as big, beautiful, thin, or attractive as the person next to you.
- 3.2.** **Intellectual** – You don't think that you are clever enough.
- 3.3.** **Lack of success** – You feel that you are not making it in life.
- 3.4.** **Failure** – You have suffered failures in your life.

4. EXAMPLE OF JOSHUA:

- 4.1.** God called Joshua into a new position. He needed to take command and fulfill a promise that was 40 years overdue. He had to lead a people who suffered from fear and intimidation into battle.

Joshua 1:2 (AMP) "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise [to take his place], cross over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel."

- 4.2.** In Joshua 1, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous on three occasions.
- 4.3.** God's antidote to fear was to keep telling Joshua to focus on strength and courage, not weakness and fear.

5. ANTIDOTES TO FEAR:

5.1. God's promises/truth – We should hold onto God's promises and Word.

Joshua 1:3 (AMP) "I have given you every place on which the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised to Moses."

5.2. God's presence – We need to be in God's presence to function.

Joshua 1:5 (AMP) "No man will [be able to] stand before you [to oppose you] as long as you live. Just as I was [present] with Moses, so will I be with you; I will not fail you or abandon you."

5.3. God's Word.

Joshua 1:8 (AMP) "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall read [and meditate on] it day and night, so that you may be careful to do [everything] in accordance with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will be successful."

5.4. We need to **apply these antidotes.** We should respond to His antidotes in the following way:

2 Corinthians 10:5 "We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ"

5.5. We need to replace false arguments with God's truth.

Sermon Discussion Guide

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. Do you sometimes suffer from intimidation? What in your life is causing you to feel intimidated?
2. In which of the two ways, mentioned in point 2, do you react when you feel intimidated?
3. How can you apply the antidotes, mentioned in point 5, to your life to overcome intimidation?