

CHANGE: BUILDING FOR BLESSING

APRIL 25, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION TO CHANGE

A. God often does the structural before He does the supernatural.

B. God often uses change to do the structural work in our lives.

1. God Never Changes

Psalms 55:19 God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change—

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

2. Life Constantly Changes

Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- How you change changes your life.

C. God uses change in our lives.

II. A CYCLE OF CHANGE

Joshua 1:1-3 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

A. Change Phase 1: Transition

Joshua 1:1-2 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead.

1. The Necessity Question

- Is this change practically necessary?
- Is this change personally necessary?

Growth = Change
Change = Loss
Loss = Pain
Growth = Pain

2. **When God uses someone greatly, He rarely lets them stay where they started.**
3. **The sooner you identify and accept transition, the sooner you move forward.**

B. Change Phase 2: Preparation

Joshua 1:2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.

1. Preparation precedes blessing.

Psalms 33:21 In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.

2. Prepare with joy.

- Pouting limits blessing.

3. Prepare with trust.

Mark 11:1-3 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

Mark 11:4-6 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

- The more diligent you are in this phase, the more fruitful you will be in the others.

4. Prepare with character.

- It is character and not charisma that leads to healthy change.

Joshua 1:3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

C. Change Phase 3: Blessing

Joshua 1:3-6 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

1. Change is the bridge to blessing.

- Be strong and courageous.
- Do not park in your blessing.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2. Today's change creates tomorrow's blessing.

3. You were built for blessing.