

**SCRIPTURE: Joshua TITLE: "Re-tell: Joshua"**

**Intro: Who is Joshua?** *Abe>Isaac>Jacob>Joseph>Moses>Joshua.* Faithful spy. 40 years waiting in desert. Warrior. Captain. Generational leader. Moses's helper/assistant. *Hagiography.* Type of Christ. Like Joseph. His Name means "**The LORD saves**" or "**The LORD is salvation.**" Moses named him. **Yeshua > Iesous > Jesus.** Joshua is not the hero. God is. He uses Joshua, and Joshua gets to witness God's victories by faith. "**Name Him Jesus...Save**"

**Thesis: "Gospel Strength & Gospel Courage comes by faith in Jesus"**

**I. Gospel Strength (1:1-9)**

- A. Confidence in God's faithfulness, purpose and might. Leaning on Him to fight for you.
- B. It is God who brings the victory. His power. Psalms give credit to God for delivery.
- C. Joshua 5: Angel of the LORD. "Commander of the LORD's army." "*I thought I was?*"
- D. Jericho is this same kind of victory. Just walk and blow your trumpets. God takes care.

**ILLUSTRATION: Exodus 17. Moses's arms held up.** After battle Moses trying to explain this to Joshua. "Sure didn't feel that way. Pretty sure I was fighting my tale off that whole time." "*Yea but while you were doing all that work, God was actually the one fighting for us and winning.*"

- E. The people follow Joshua across Jordan into salvation, victory and Promised Land.
- F. Joshua follows God in obedience according the His battle plans and design.
- G. Joshua even is compassionate on Rahab, a prostitute. Man of integrity and mercy.

**APPLICATION: JESUS!** His strength was also in His Father. Tempted and never sinned.

- 1. People follow Joshua across Jordan into salvation, victory and Promised Land. JESUS.
- 2. Joshua follows God in obedience according the His battle plans and design. JESUS.
- 3. Joshua is compassionate on Rahab, a sinner. Man of truth and mercy. JESUS. Lineage.
- 4. IN THE GOSPEL, you have the POWER and STRENGTH to fight sin. Because Spirit.
- But what does try strength and courage look like? Leaning on His Strength.
- "Growing in the grace of God." **2 Pet.3:18.** "Be strong in the grace of God." **2 Tim. 2:1**
- *Growing in faith and knowledge of Jesus. Repenting of sin. Knowing weakness.*

**II. Gospel Courage (23:1-10; 24:14-26)**

- A. **Joshua 23:1-10.** Joshua was able to lead others because He trusted the LORD.
- B. If the LORD's on my side, nothing to fear. That's the GOSPEL. **Rom. 8.** God is for me.
- C. **Tom Wood's Gospel Chant:** Completely forgiven = Nothing to Hide. Perfectly Righteous in Christ = Nothing to prove. Eternally loved by my Father = Nothing to fear.
  - 1. Most [*men*] are afraid ppl will see right thru them to who they really are: **FORGIVEN.**
  - 2. Most are trying to impress, prove themselves to be worthy of respect: **RIGHTEOUS.**
  - 3. Most want to be liked, appreciated, approved. Fear people's opinions. Afraid of looking weak, sensitive, bland, dull, stupid, incapable, needing help. **LOVED.**
- D. **Joshua 24:14-26.** We are nothing and can do nothing apart from Christ. **John 15.** This is freeing and encouraging. I don't have to do it alone, but I have the power to do it.

**APPLICATION/CONCLUSION: MEN** (some of this overlaps to women, listen in but really....). *Young people. Students. Youth. Maturing. Growing into adults. Men. What kind of man?*

**ILLUSTRATION: Jordan Peterson.** "**Young men. You are welcome here!**" We love men. We want to help men be men. Be strong and courageous. But not the world's version. Gospel way! But where are the men? Husbands? Sons? Where are they? Hunting? Sleeping in? God's so much better for them. Bigger for them. More important. Change. Impact. Impression. For God.

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**1) Leaders/Elders: (Numbers 27:15-18.)** JESUS is the Good Shepherd. We follow him.  
**Numbers 27:15-18** - Moses spoke to the Lord, saying, 16 "Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation 17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, ***that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.***" 18 So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him."

**2) Husbands/Fathers:** Gospel courage? Lead family in worship. "I haven't done this well. I don't even really know what to do. Awkward at times. But we are. And I need help and patience."

**3) Others:** -Invite person to church you haven't, but it's been so long it just feels awkward now.  
- Admit/Confess sin/struggle. Ask for help. Giving in. Don't have the strength to fight alone.  
- *Marriage is falling apart.* Too embarrassed/ashamed to ask for help. We hardly talk and there's been no intimacy for months. Don't know what to do. Kids are out of control.  
- Instead joke, act tough, talk dumb things like football, beer and guns and call it "guy time."

**4) Only a Gospel of Justification by grace through faith alone can change this.** Knowing and believing in a Jesus who was the perfect God-Man. Died for weak sinners. Who frees us up to be weak. To not have to have it all together. Or be strong in ourselves. Or hold it all together. A Savior who is strong for us. Shame/Guilt will only lead to more. *Gospel set us free!*

**GOSPEL CHANT: True Strength & Courage come from.**

**Completely forgiven** = Nothing to hide.

**Perfectly Righteous in Christ** = Nothing to prove.

**Eternally loved by my Father** = Nothing to fear.

**The real issue is we have too many men who don't actually believe the Gospel of Jesus.**

- Think they have to act and talk tough around other guys. *Gospel frees you to be laugh stock.*
- Think they can't show weakness or vulnerability or sadness or pain.
- They're scared to share their sin struggles with others because they're filled with shame, regret and guilt over it so they laugh it off, downplay it or keep it hidden.
- Scared to admit they're a sinner, or say they actually hate certain sins and tendencies that are in their lives because others seem to glorify them. (shows, movies, hobby, drinking, etc.)
- They have no joy and thanks in their hearts, so what's the point of going to worship this God.
- Singing, praising and expressing any kind of emotion is unmanly, so I'm gonna "play it cool."
- Praying to a God feels vulnerable. Admits needing help. Admits there's a being bigger/stronger than me who I owe my allegiance and will and obedience and submission.
- Have no sense of dependance or desperation to learn about God or seek encouragement from others, so of course they're not going to show up for church.
- Get their main sense of identity by what they do, make, produce or earn, so why would they give up 3-4 hours on a Sunday to sit and stand and not get anything productive done?
- Feel entitled to their time and weekends so why would they give up some of their only downtime on Sundays to be around people they only see once a week?
- Others view church/personal discipleship as a back up plan. If there's nothing better to do.

**These are all symptoms of unbelief.** I'm sorry. I don't care how many churches you've been to in your life. What kind of religious affiliation you claim to have. What kind of work ethic you have.

How true to your word you are. If these symptoms are in your life, you might not even be a believer in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A Gospel that says. On your own, you're weak. You're a sinner. But in Christ you are forgiven, righteous and loved. So you can be strong & courageous.