



Sermon Text: Joshua 1:10-18

Sermon Date: March 3, 2019

The story picks up when Joshua has just been commissioned by God as the new leader of Israel. God has charged him with the care and guidance of his people. Not only would Joshua be responsible for making sure that the people of God were cared for physically, he was responsible with the task of ensuring the people of God kept the Law of God.

JOSHUA'S FAITHFUL RESPONSE (V10-11)

Joshua gathers the officers of the people. This meeting was a big deal, sort of like an executive board meeting for a Fortune 500 company. You have the chairman Joshua with all of his fellow leaders discussing how to move the nation of Israel forward. Joshua's first act in leadership points to the type of leader he was. In the text we see no hint of wavering, not a hint of hesitation. Joshua immediately takes action and commands the people of Israel to begin making preparations for the entry into the promised land. Joshua's obedience is indicative of his faith in the promise of God.

A REMINDER TO BE FAITHFUL (V12-15)

The next order of business on the docket at this Israeli leadership summit, is to make sure the Reubenites, Gadites, and Manassaites make good on their promise to Moses. These two and a half tribes had asked Moses to receive their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan (Num 32). This is the land that Israel conquered from Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan. The Reubenites and Gadites had a lot of Livestock and they thought the land east of the Jordan would be good enough for their livestock. They wanted to stay on the east side of the Jordan rather than receive their inheritance in the promised land.

One of the themes that runs through the book of Joshua is the promise of God. Joshua is all about Israel's people claiming (or attempting to claim) the promise that God made to Abraham and finding rest in the land. **However, the assurance of the promises of God are only as certain as the character of God.** To doubt the promise of God is to doubt the very character of God. God's immutability and omnipotence are the basis on which we trust in his promises.

THE PEOPLE'S FAITHFUL RESPONSE (V16-18)

The officers of the people respond by agreeing to the commands that Joshua has issued. One remarkable thing about the text is that there is no evidence that any of the people weren't on board. One would think that with the transition from Moses to Joshua there would be some level of discontent with the people. What we see in the text, however, is quite the opposite. First in verse 16 they say "All you have commanded us we will do", then in verse 17 they promise to obey Joshua as they have obeyed Moses. Finally, in verse 18 they raise the stakes and say that whoever rebels against Joshua shall be put to death. Only be strong and very courageous.

APPLICATION POINTS

- **Faith is evidenced by our works** - We are not saved by good works but we are saved unto good works. Our works should demonstrate that our faith in Christ is genuine.
- **Receiving God's promise requires persevering to the end** - We are required to "finish the race" to receive the promise of God. It would be a shame to get all the way to the "Jordan river" and not go across it.
- **Trust, Plan and Go** - Christianity is an active faith, we are not called to be idle in our faith. We should **trust** in the promise of God, **plan** with the opportunities, abilities, and common sense that God has given us, then **go** execute the thing to which God has called us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. How can we avoid being idle in our faith?