

Great Commission of the Old Testament

Joshua 1 – big shoes to fill

Moses – 11 times in Joshua 1

- Questions –
 - What kind of person would God entrust with spiritual leadership?
 - How can I become that kind of person?

I. Men die; others rise to fill
the gap; God remains

Moses: great leader...did not enter Canaan

- Joshua spent decades serving God under Moses... Ex.17:9-14; Nu.11:28
- 1 Tim.3: elders prepare in youth for later service. Age alone will not qualify.
- Elders are not older men who simply decide to become elders.
- Elders' wives can't invent mature character at age 60.
- 1 Tim.4:12

I. Men die; others rise to fill the gap...

II. We are expendable;
God is essential

Moses died; Joshua now commands Israel

- Our faith is not in men, but God. Moses, Num.20. Ph.1
 - If we focus on men, when they fall, we fall.
 - Faith in men is form of idolatry. NT is our bedrock.

I. Men die; others rise to fill the gap...

II. We are expendable; God is essential

III. Faithful men can
aid our spiritual growth

Moses could repent and continue to help Israel (Nu.20 . . .)

- Joshua listened to God; people listened to him (2-3, 4-9, 10).
- What would happen to Israel without Moses? Joshua? Josh.3:7
- Lk.10:16

I. Men die; others rise to fill the gap...

II. We are expendable; God is essential

III. Faithful men aid our spiritual growth

IV. Exclusive hearing: Joshua

Joshua: not just a man with an opinion

- Willingness to hear is essential to spiritual growth and right relationship with God.
10. 3:9; 6:5
- **Exclusive: hear Joshua, not just anyone.**
 - Ex.32, heard sinners, not Moses
 - Jg.9, heard Abimelech
 - 1 K.12, heard young men...

I. Men die; others rise to fill the gap...

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V. Fear and cowardice would hinder Joshua and Israel

These are the children God said
would conquer Canaan – Nu.13-14

- We can overcome unapproved examples
- When one group will not heed God, He finds others who will...

I. Men die; others rise to fill the gap...

II. We are expendable; God is essential

III. Faithful men aid our spiritual growth

IV. Exclusive hearing: Joshua

V. Fear and cowardice would hinder...

VI. Joshua's courageous
example

1. Faithful, v.1

- From Moses' servant to God's spokesman.
- Always relied on God's lead; never tried to assert himself.

“People who become great leaders usually need to learn how to serve and follow others – then they'll get their turn” – Sper

2. Obedient, v.2

- Received marching orders – marched
- Aaron: Nu.33:38 – Nu.20:22-29

3. Trust, v.3-5

- Believed in God; believed God
- They *would* conquer Canaan
- Ex.17:...8-13 – Israel played active role
- Ex.14:13 – stand still, see...

4. Realize power is in God, not man

Do something – 2 Kg.5:13

Do nothing – Ac.9:26

Do anything – Mk.7:12

5. Commitment to Law of God, v.7-8

Obedience to God's word is obedience to God

Total commitment to God's word . . .

Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows that it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed.

Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows that it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle:

WHEN THE SUN COMES UP,
YOU HAD BETTER BE RUNNING

6. Infectious strength, v.16-18

- His strength and courage helped them.
Josh.1:6, 7, 9, 18. 17:13
- Strength can be our best friend or worst enemy. Jg.16
- Churches –
 - Corinth: 1 Co.12-14 . . . 15
 - Galatia: 1:6...9; 3:1-3
 - Laodicea: Rv.3:15-17

7. Endurance, 24:...14-15

- Satan tries to defeat cause of Christ through disciples.
- We can be forgiven – but we may do irreparable damage to gospel.

God's first revelation after Moses died

- Joshua must lead Israel into promised land
- And must assure them of God's aid if they remain loyal to His law
- Preparation is essential to success