

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 12, 2016
“Unsung Heroes: Great Lessons From the Lesser Known ~
Joshua: Possessing Your Future”

IN THE BEGINNING ~ JOSHUA 1:1-11

“After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, ‘My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses...No one shall 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 not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them.” (Joshua 1:1-2)

Moses was dead and the mantle of _____ was passed to Joshua. It was up to Him to bring the people of God into the promised land—into their _____.

This is a wonderful picture of not only God’s _____, but also His _____ and concern.

GOD’S 3-STEP STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

Step #1: Trust in God’s _____.

God is a _____ and He has a unique _____ for each of our lives.

“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” (Jeremiah 29:11)

“Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses.” (P) I’ve heard it said that the future belongs to those who prepare for it and destiny is realized by those who are ready.

It doesn’t matter where you are in life, we need to _____ that God has a plan for us in this _____ of our life, and we need to trust in that plan.

One of the ways we prepare for the future is to let go of the _____.

Sometimes we can let the past keep us from possessing the _____.

“Don’t go charging into battle without a plan.” (Proverbs 20:18)

“A wise person thinks ahead.” (Proverbs 13:16)

Is there anything from your past that needs to be buried? Do you trust that God has a plan for this season of your life?
Are you willing to trust that plan?

Step #2: Stay in the _____.

“Be strong and courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7)

Have you noticed how easy it is to get _____?

God's promise of success has nothing to do with our _____, but rather our _____ to Him and His Word.

STAYING IN THE WORD

- “Don’t let it depart out of your mouth.” Keep _____ on it and _____ about it.
- “Meditate on it day and night.” _____ about the Word of God, ponder it, reflect on it, allow it to _____ your thoughts.
- “Be careful to do everything written in it.” Be sure to _____ the Word in your life.

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

How much time do you spend reading Scripture compared to doing other things?

Step #3: _____ in faith.

Faith is about so much more than just head _____. Faith is about committing one’s self to that belief. It’s about _____ and not religion.

When God calls us to do something, He gives us the _____ to do it! ;

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6)

_____ keeps us from getting started and _____ keeps us from continuing or finishing.

In anything we do, the first step is often the _____.

What is your Jordan river?

What is the barrier that's keeping you from possessing your future?

Think about a word that best describes your faith in God right now?

What would you like that word to be?

THE ENDING: JOSHUA 24:1-18

“I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac. To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau...I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt...Afterward I brought you out...And have given you a land for which you did not labour, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.” (Joshua 24:3)

Joshua wants the people to know who God _____ and what He's _____.

He wants them to know that God is their great _____. It wasn't by the might of their own swords that the victory was won, but by the _____ of God.

Joshua is calling for a _____—he wants the people to decide once and for all who they're going to _____—who they're going to trust, worship, and obey.

3 LESSONS ABOUT COMMITTING TO GOD

#1. Committing ourselves to God requires _____.

Joshua reminds them of the _____ God's done for them—he gives them a quick _____ account of God's dealings with His people through the years.

Commitment to God always starts with confidence in His _____.

“I will remember the deeds of the Lord. I will remember your ancient miracles. I will reflect on all your actions and think about what you have done.” (Psalm 77:11)

It's so easy for us to _____ God and to take everything He's done for

us for _____.

If we want to maintain our commitment to God, somewhere in our heart there has to be a spirit of _____—an intentional, daily, recognition of all that He has done for us.

Looking back over your life—what has God done for you—can you see evidence of His faithfulness?

#2. Committing ourselves to God involves _____.

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river and Egypt. Serve the Lord!” (Joshua 24:14)

If we're not challenged in our faith—if we all too easily worship the gods of this world, or if our experience of God is the same thing Sunday after Sunday, week after week—our faith can become _____ and boring. We can end up putting God in a little box and limiting His _____ in our lives.

How challenged are you in your faith right now?

How comfortable are a you?

#3. Committing ourselves to God ultimately involves _____.

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” (Joshua 24:15)

One thing we need to understand about serving God is that it is always _____.

Choosing to follow Jesus doesn't guarantee an _____ life—and there is definitely a _____ to pay—especially if we want to live it with _____.

Decisions need to be followed by _____.

faith is nothing more than choosing _____ each time we're faced with a decision—in every situation.

What about you—how has your faith been challenged?

Have you made your choice who you will serve?

The message of Joshua is simple: when it comes to God, there's no such thing as partial _____—we're either committed to Him or we're not.

How will you choose?