

Joshua: Chapter 1

Chapter 1

- V. 1 – Now it came about...
 - Deut. 11:13-14, "... if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil."
 - Deut. 11:16, "[Watch out] lest your hearts be deceived and you turn away and serve other gods and worship them."
 - SC: In order to conquer fear and emotion, Joshua. 1 v. 6, 7, 9 and 18, the phrase "Be strong and courageous," is repeated 4 times. There was a promise to possess the land in Deuteronomy, but they had to trust God in order to defeat and drive out the inhabitants that were much *greater* than them in the land.
- V. 1 – Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant (SC: Or "minister"), saying,
- V. 2 – "Moses My servant is dead; now (SC: Present tense) therefore arise (SC: Or "act"), cross this Jordan (SC: An action), you and all this people (SC: Notice, it doesn't say, "MY people"), to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.
- V. 3 – "Every place (SC: Key words, every place) on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you (SC: past tense. Verse 2, "in the land which I AM giving to them," present tense. Verse 3, "I HAVE given to you," past tense.), just as I spoke (SC: Past tense) to Moses.
- SC: Interesting change there.
- V. 4 – "From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river (SC: Remember Euphrates), the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun, will be your territory.
- SC: So, "will be" is future tense. It's so interesting to me. Present tense in v. 2, past tense in v. 3, future tense in v. 4. Why? Why isn't it all the same tense? And when that question is asked or posed, you shouldn't give an answer, because you're not God. You have no idea. Yours is just an opinion. The question is, why God do that? What's the meaning, what's the purpose? Cause it's interesting. Because tenses change within 3 sentences like that.
- V. 5 – "No man will be able to stand before you all (SC: key word, all) the days of your life (SC: The problem is, you don't believe it. If you don't believe it, it won't happen. If you believe it, it's going happen. You have to remember that. Any promise God says, and speaks to you, if you don't believe it, it's not going to happen. If you *do* believe it, it's going to happen. Because if you don't believe, it means you don't *trust* Him. So then why should He fulfill a promise to you if you don't trust Him? If you *do* believe Him, you're saying, "I trust you, God."

So then it's going to happen, He'll make it happen.). Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

- SC: That's a promise.
- SC: And then V. 23 of Deut. 31, "Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you." So it's just interesting, 6 times God has the *same message* about entering the promise land to the *one guy* that's supposed to lead the progression into the Promise Land. Same words, 6 times, "be strong and courageous." He doesn't say, "Now, you have a choice here to make. You have an option. You can choose to be strong and courageous or you can choose to be a wimp, a weak weasel." He doesn't do that. He *tells* him, "be strong and courageous." In Deuteronomy, He goes further, "Don't fear, don't tremble." And then He shows the *fruit*, that if you will just *do* what he tells you to do, he tells you the fruit and result of doing it in V. 5, "No man will be able to stand before you... all the days of your life." Your entire life. So if you want that kind of *result*, you'll *practice* Deut. 31 and Joshua 1. 6 "be strong and courageous."
- V. 6 – (SC: The first of the 4 verses) "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.
- V. 7 – (SC: Again) "Only be strong and very courageous; (SC: Watch this) be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn (SC: In other words, don't get distracted) from it to the right or to the left (SC: Stay focused. *Stay focused on what you're supposed to do that hour, that minute, that day, that week, that month.*), so that you may have success (SC: And the words, "have success" can also mean, "act wisely." "So that you can act *wisely* wherever you go."), "wherever you go.
- V. 8 – "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do (SC: There it is again. Key word, do. Most people DO. Most people don't *act*. And that *really* is the big sin. The word, literally is "act" over on the right.) according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.
- V. 9 – "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! (SC: There it is again). Do not tremble (SC: There *that* is again) or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
- SC: **Now, why would they be dismayed?** It would *be* because they have violated V. 7, "don't turn to the right or left." And what *that* means is, don't turn to the right or left, but Colossians 3:1-3, "¹If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set (SC: or *fix*) your mind ...³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."
- So Colossians 3:2 applies here. Why would they be dismayed? It would *be* because they have violated V. 7 instead of practicing Col. 3:2.
- Being strong and courageous is *huge* because if you don't *act*, you don't *learn*, you don't *change*, you don't *grow*. And you have a humanity all around you that doesn't *act*. We *instinctively* know inside what to do. That's something I discovered [while] counseling people. They instinctively knew what to do. But they didn't do it for many reasons: they *doubted*, or they were *afraid*, or they *questioned* and *challenged* what they should do, as if it was wrong, because somebody else *told* them to do it. So one of my greatest jobs counseling 30 years ago was basically just to *empower* people to *do* what they already knew to do. And it was *amazing* to watch them *change* and *blossom* and see the results they produced.
- Just *act*. Just *do* what you *know* to do. *Do* what God tells you to do from the Word. If you have a habit, a practice, of acting on what God's telling you to do for your own *personal* life. Not go out and *murder* people, not *stone* people like they did (inaudible). The *simple* things that you guys have heard me espousing, that God's taught *me* for 45 years. You have to know what to *do*.
- How does a strong person know what to do? Because they always acted on the small things. "He who is faithful with little will be faithful with much." When you're *not* faithful with little, you're not going to know how to *handle* much. And that's for *all* of you. It's *so* important that you guys know what's going on in Joshua, the message that God's telling to each of you.

- Is the person who *acts* wrong sometimes? Sure. But they're *right* a whole lot more than they're *wrong*. You know, if you've had a practice and habit of *doing* for 30, 40, 50 years, you're going to *do* a lot of good and right.
- Will you make mistakes? Sure, it's part *of* it. It's no big deal. The *sky* is not going to fall. The great *travesty* is that you don't *do* because you're *afraid*, or you tell yourself you don't know what to *do*.
- And you should also look at the opportunities you've missed if you don't have a habit of *doing*, between you and God. No one else. When God tells you to *do* something and you don't *do* it, you don't *practice* it. Plain and simple.
- I've been doing this 48 years and I'm still having to do it. This is a Scripture checklist. What am I *doing*? I'm acting on *told* me to *do*, told me to *think*, told me to *say*. He *tells* you how to think, He *tells* you how to walk, He *tells* you how to talk. But you don't *do* it. And that's what He says to *all* of us. "You don't *do* the simple things I *tell* you to do." Therefore, you don't know *how* to do when the *great* things happen to you or are presented to you.
- Great *calamities* could happen to you or great *blessings* could happen to you, but if you don't have the habit of doing, then you don't know how to handle it when it comes. I mean, this is *huge*. So then if you miss the opportunities, or you don't know how to handle calamities when they come, you live your life in *regret*, and you label yourself as a failure and you *feel* like a failure, or you just *stop* it and start acting on the simple things God tells you to do or tells you what to think. It's that simple.
- Then you'll start *learning* from your mistakes instead of *living* your mistakes. So *remember* that. You're either *learning* from your mistakes, and facing them and changing them; your actions, thinking, everything, or you're *living* your mistakes, *continually*. And they become your reputation. Learning or living.
- "Do not turn to the right or to the left." Some key verses to keep in mind related to this:
 - Colossians 3:2
 - "Keep your face like flint." Isaiah 50:7.
- So V. 1-9 is God talking to Joshua. It's all about Joshua getting his head on straight with what God wants him to do, be, and how to think. Then once Joshua has all his marching orders figured out, organized, ready to go, then V. 10.
- Watch this.
- V. 10 – Then Joshua [delegated to] (SC: Period. That's what it says.) the officers of the people, saying,
- V. 11 – "Pass through the midst of the camp (SC: What's the camp? The camp is *people*. "Go right into the middle of all the people, the team, the group, the company, whatever it is.) and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves (SC: Act. Again, another action. Why? He didn't have to tell them why. *Shouldn't* have to tell them why. Not often does it tell *us* why. We just have to faith and trust and act.), for within three days you (SC: will *act*) are to cross this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you (SC: Present tense), to possess [the land].'"
- SC: Then, by the way, it's *filled* with bigger, stronger inhabitants than you. More *equipped* inhabitants than you. But you're going to do it. So there's no debate here. There's no, what ifs. There's no, I don't know how to dos. There's no, I can't do it. You're to go in and possess the land. That means *pick up residence*. There's *action* in all of this.
- V. 12 – And to the Reubenites and to the Gadites (SC: You should go figure out who these are) and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said,
- V. 13 – "Remember (SC: Key word. What's an old key phrase from the Old Testament? "Remember and reflect.") the word (SC: Look there) which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God gives you rest, and will give you this land.'
- SC: So it *gives* you a mindset of rest. That's *peace*, assurance, confidence. Why is he saying, "Remember the word?" So that you don't violate V. 7, don't turn to the right or to the left. Don't look at all your obstacles, all

these inhabitants. Don't look at all things that tell *your mind* it can't be done, we can't do it, we're going fail, we'll get killed. Remember the word that was commanded to you saying, "the Lord your God gives you *rest* (that's peace, calm confidence) and will give you this land." Future tense. If you act. As you act.

- V. 14 – "Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle (SC: That is, all your possessions, your wealth. Back then, your livestock was your wealth. So think of your *bank account*.) shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array (SC: That means *death*. That means risking your life.), all your valiant warriors, and shall help them,
- V. 15 – until the LORD gives your brothers rest (SC: That is, you're going to help them until they rest), as He gives you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then (SC: There's the word, "then" again. In other words, then *after* V. 10 through the first part of V. 15) you shall return to your own land, and possess that which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."
- SC: That is, toward the Mediterranean.
- V. 16 – And they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you have commanded us we will do (SC: Look at that. We will do. Again – action.), and wherever you send us we will go (SC: Action. There is no *substitute* for action. There is only *consequences* for *inaction*. Consequence for your own life, state of mind, peace of heart).
- V. 17 – "Just as we obeyed Moses in all things (SC: Not *some* things, not only thing that we felt worthy to obey Him in.), so we will obey you (SC: 1 Samuel 15:22, "I desire obedience more than sacrifice."); only may the LORD your God be with you (SC: That's not a promise He *will* be with you. He *may* be with you), as He was with Moses.
- V. 18 – "Anyone who rebels against your command (SC: "mouth" is literally what it says. That is, your authority, your command.) and does *not* obey your words in *all* that you command him, shall be put to death; only be strong and courageous."
- SC: Now, us *humans* are so *limited in thinking* that we think of only *physical* death. But what's the consequence, as I was describing with not being faithful with the simple things? Is there an *opportunity* death, is there a *relational* death, is there a *financial* death, is there a *behavioral habit* death, is there a *lifestyle* death? There's more than just one kind of death. There's more than just a *physical* death.