

New Leadership
Joshua 1:1-9
Sermon Outline

Introduction: What do we do when someone we love and are counting on dies? What do we do when our deep hopes are seriously threatened? These two questions faced Israel at the opening of *Joshua*. Moses was dead, and Israel was poised to enter a hostile land. We face our own versions of these traumas. What are we to do?

I) We should know and obey God's Word

A) God's command to Joshua is his command to us

Joshua is a "Bridge book"

What do we do during "bridge" times?

Not "win" or "bear fruit", but "abide"

Joshua 1.7-8, John 15.5,7

Outcomes versus faithfulness

B) Joshua 1:7-9

1) Meditate day and night

Camping out and dining

What is meditating?

How do we do it?

2) Speak the Word: ...shall not depart from your mouth (v. 8)

3) Obey the Word: ...Be careful to do all...(v. 7,8)

We do not love him and will not know him if we do not trust him enough to do what he says

The best way to discover the 'big picture' future...

II) Why should we know and obey God's Word?

Because we can trust him

A) He came through for Joshua and Israel

B) He has come through for us

An even greater Joshua reads and applies Joshua 1:7

- *Good success...*
- *Turning neither to the left nor to the right*
- *Strength and courage to face the foe*

Bringing us to Canaan

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Try to imagine how an Israelite would have reacted to the news that Moses was dead. Have you ever lost someone you looked up to or relied heavily on? If so, how did you manage the loss?
- 2) Have you ever experienced significant confusion about the direction your life was supposed to take--or serious resistance to the direction you believed your life ought to be taking? How did you react to and try to manage the trauma of that experience?
- 3) Joshua 1:7-9 summarizes God's advice and command to Joshua in the face of the loss of Moses and the threat of the Canaanites. Paraphrase that advice/command. Does the advice make sense to you? Why? Why not? Does it make sense to you as a way to cope with loss and trauma in your own life?
- 4) Reflect on the following definition of meditation by James Packer: "Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God. Its purpose is...to let God's truth make its full and proper impact on one's mind and heart. It is a matter of talking to oneself about God and oneself: it is, indeed, often a matter of arguing with oneself, reasoning oneself out of moods of doubt and unbelief into a clear apprehension of God's power and grace." (*Knowing God*, pg. 18-19, 1973 edition).
 - How much time would it take you if you were to meditate in this sense twice a week?
 - Do you do so? If not, why not?
- 5) God tells Joshua that the Word must not "depart from your mouth." Why "mouth" as opposed to "heart" or "mind"? (See James 3:2-4 and Genesis 1:3, 27).
- 6) Reflect on the following statement: "We may say that we know and love God. But we do not love him and we will never know him if we do not trust him enough to do what he says." Is there an obvious obedience that you are presently shirking? What are you going to do about it?
- 7) Jesus (whose Hebrew name is Joshua) is the true Joshua, of whom the Joshua of ancient Israel was a vivid picture—both in his faithfulness and his mission. Compare the two Joshuas. Imagine Jesus meditating on Joshua 1:7-9 and receiving it as a command from his Father regarding his mission in life (and ultimately at the cross). How did Jesus keep this command? Why is it so important for us that he did?
- 8) Spend some time thanking God for the gift of both Joshuas—but particularly the later one.