

Joshua 21:43-45  
Outline for Congregation

We are called to trust God – seeing how God has proven faithful in the past is a great help to those trying to follow him in the present.

Place (v43)

- God promises Abraham a place – land for his descendants
- Many years later, after much suffering, Joshua sees the promise fulfilled
- Human feelings of rootlessness – longing for place
- Hebrews 11:8-10 Abraham lived by faith, looking forward – the land is a foretaste of the place God has prepared for his people (John 14:1-2)

Peace (v44)

- Rest a) on every side (thoroughness) b) from enemies - if there are enemies, there is no rest
- Psalms – David seeks God because of his enemies (Absalom – Psalm 3; Saul – Psalm 18, 57; Philistines – Psalm 56) – Psalm 124

Promise (v45)

- The statements are filled with confidence – even though Joshua knows that things are not completely finished (Joshua 11:22; 13:1-6; 15:63; 17:12)
- Being rooted in God and seeing from his perspective vs. standing somewhere else
- John 19:30 “It is finished”; 1 Corinthians 5:17 “if anyone is in Christ – a new creation”
- Land and Sabbath as signs
- Luke 15:11-24 – parable of prodigal son

Questions for reflection

1. Do you feel like you have enemies (literal/actual, or things you perceive are against you)? If so, how does this keep you from feeling rest and peace?
2. If you were to force your perceptions of yourself and your life into an extreme category (no nuances), would things be positive or negative? Is your life for the most part good or bad?
3. If you are not Christian: what defines how you view yourself, your future, meaning in life, etc.? From where you stand, do you have confidence that the picture of your life as a whole is a good one?
4. Jesus says those in Christ are a new creation – there is a radical change. If you are Christian, do you believe you stand firmly on the promises of God, and that your life is completely marked by hope and grace, and that you can experience peace even despite the loose ends in life? What causes you to be fully committed to seeing things from this perspective, or keeps you from seeing this way?
5. Reflect on Joshua 21:43-45, a statement at the end of a certain period in the history of God’s people. How can seeing how God carried to fulfillment all he promised then help you as you live your life, not knowing how things will work out in the future?