

EMBRACING CHANGE

Joshua 1:10-16

"People Get Ready"

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Illustration:** Geese in "V" formation

THREE QUALITIES OF A GOOD LEADER

I. IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE

1. Vs 1-9

2. Vs 10 NLT

a) "**Then**" - Indicates an immediate response

b) Joshua's orders were clear, and he immediately implemented them as God had commanded.

3. The danger of not responding in obedience immediately is that we run the risk of growing reluctant and disobedient.

4. When we know our calling and duty...we only have one option!!! Do what we know God has called and commissioned us to do.

5. Psalm 119:60

6. As a result of their disobedience, Israel took 42 years to go from Egypt to Canaan, which should have only taken 11 days.

7. Procrastination causes obedience to be more difficult and painful.

8. Instead of obedience, we talk about it, we think about it, and we put it on our calendar.

II. INSTRUCTIVE ORDERS

1. Notice Vs 9

a) "**Have I not commanded thee?**"

2. Now Vs 10 NLT

a) "**Then Joshua commanded the officers?**"

3. Vs 11

a) "pass through the host and commanded the people."

4. God commanded **Joshua**----Joshua commanded the **officers**----and the officers commanded the **people**. But the authority was from God.

5. God's plan however is always through man.

6. God always uses leadership to accomplish his purposes.

7. **Titus 2:15**

8. **Matthew 7:29** (Notice Jesus Example)

9. God allowed Joshua to be the leader and Joshua passed his authority down through his officers and they passed it down to the people.

10. **VERY IMPORTANT:** It is when we are true to God's Word, that we have the power and authority of God.

11. **It is my responsibility as Pastor to speak with God's authority,** not take a vote or consult a committee.

12. **2 Timothy 2:15** KJV

a) "Study to shew theyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

1) "**Study**" - means to be diligent!!! To work hard!!!!

2) "**rightly dividing**" - the key word is "dividing"

a) from two Gk words:

1. "**Ortho**" - means straight (Orthopedic, orthodox) make straight

2. "**tomeo**" - means to cut

13. **News Flash** - God does not reveal His Word for us in "**cloud formation**"

a) He does not speak audibly.

1. Not inside or outside or even in your car.

14. God has revealed His Word to us in what is known as the "Book of God" the "Bible."

15. God speaks to us through:

a) "**Observation**" - *What do I see?*

b) "**Illumination**" - *The Holy Spirit teaches us.*

c) "**Interpretation**" - *What does it mean?*

d) "Application" - *How does it apply?*

16. **2 Timothy 2:15** ESV

17. Therefore - "Ortho" + "tomeo" = means to cut a straight path to the truth!!!!!!

18. *It is my responsibility to "say it straight" so you can "hear it straight."*

19. When I start to dumb the Word of God down...**You need to fire me!!!**

20. My job is to cut it straight so you can go directly to the truth and count on what it says.

21. My goal in life; with God's help; is to accurately handle God's Word.

22. **WOW!!!!** If we don't understand what God has said, how in the world are people who are fighting battles in this secular world going to have a sense of direction or authority in their lives?

23. We don't need dictators, but men and women who speak with authority where God had declared His Word.

24. **Vs 11**

25. *So how are we to be prepared?*

A. BY BEING PHYSICALLY PREPARED

1. For 40 years God provided food in the wilderness for these people...but now it was time to fend for themselves.

2. In the same way we must literally do something physically to be prepared for battle.

3. We must physically nourish our souls with the Word of God.

a) Time

b) Place

4. We must learn to feed ourselves daily with the Word of God to be strengthened for war.

5. If we do not ready our food supply, we will suffer malnutrition.

6. And instead of **VICTORS** we will be **VICTIMS**.

7. Just as Joshua prepared his people physically...so must we.

B. BY BEING SPIRITUALLY PREPARED

1. Vs 11

a) "for within 3 days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land"

2. According to **Joshua 3:15** the waters of the Jordan overflowed all its banks.

3. It was the treacherous Jordan that stood between the people and their "Promised Land."

4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** It's not the **WHAT** (we know what that is)
It's not the **WHO** (we know it's God's plan)
It's the **HOW????** That we worry about!!!

5. Immediately their faith was to be tested.

6. We must always remember the **BIG PICTURE** here!!! **GOD ALREADY PROMISED THE VICTORY!!!!** It was a done deal!!!

7. All they had to do and all we have to do is be **OBEDIENT!!!**

8. Now that was an intensely spiritual truth that we must apply to our own lives today,

9. Far too many Christians don't apply their faith and take possession of the territory God has given to them.

10. **For Example:** We are to **THINK, BE, AND ACT, LIKE JESUS "BELIEVE SERIES"**

a) **Galatians 5:19-23**

11. **This happens when we are:**

a) Filled (controlled) with the Spirit.

1) **Ephesians 5:15-21**

b) And when the Word of Christ dwells in our hearts.

1) **Colossians 3:16**

12. 55 times in the New Testament we are commanded to LOVE - we are to take possession of what we already own!!!

III. INSPIRATIONAL OVERSIGHT

1. Vs 12-15

2. Leadership is always validated by "followership."

3. Before you can ever become a good leader, you must prove yourself as a good "follower."

4. Cf. Vs 1

5. Vs 16-18

6. Leadership is not always easy, because these Hebrews gave Moses fits!!!

7. However, Joshua watched Moses, when the people murmured against him.

THERE ARE FOUR MAJOR TRUTHS THAT STICK OUT HERE:

A. FIRST - GOD'S PROMISES ARE OFTEN CONDITIONAL

1. 1 John 1:9

2. Notice: **Philippians 4:19**; Cf. Vs 15-18

3. Vs 19 is in the context of "*faithful stewardship*"

4. **KEY:** That promise is yours if you are faithful in giving.

5. God made a promise, that the land is already theirs!!!!.....but they had to be obedient and do exactly what God commanded.

6. When we claim one of God's Promises we had better read the "*fine print*."

B. SECOND - THE KEY OF POSSESSION

1. The core of the Book of Joshua is wrapped up in this:

a) As believers we must claim what is ours!!

2. All Israel had to do was claim what was theirs.

3. In order for you and I to possess our possessions we must fight some battles for them.

4. **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you don't have any spiritual battles to fight, you are just wondering around in the Christian life.

5. **1 Peter 5:8**

6. Paul tells us in Ephesians to put on the whole armor of God.

7. For the believer today there are battles to be fought and territory to claim.

C. **FINALLY - WE NEED TO BE PATIENT**

1. Some Christians worry too much!!!

2. Many people miss out on what could be theirs if only they would trust the Lord and be patient.

CONCLUSION:

1. **Remember the Geese?**

2. Progress is easier when we stay in formation!!!

3. When you go it alone you lose your support.

4. That's what the Church is all about.

a) If we stay in formation and move forward we will get where we are supposed to be.