

August 6th, 2023
Second String
Joshua 1

Open with prayer

Read for insight into the scripture

We have been journeying with Moses. At the end of his life, in Deuteronomy 34:10 it basically says that Moses was the best and he and the Lord were on an unparalleled first name basis. He has shown the power of God to everyone by God working through him to do UNREAL wonders. Moses was amazing! AND YET, the story doesn't come to an end with Moses. God's story continues on. It has to. The Biblical story began with God and will end with God and we get the honor of being a part of the story...just like Moses. He was obedient and led well, but he was also charged with leading the next generation of leaders. Just like we are. We can learn a lot from the passing of the baton of leadership from Moses to Joshua. Joshua was much younger and would have had every reason to be fearful of filling Moses' shoes.

In our lives, we may not be taking over for someone else, but maybe we are starting something new, taking a new job, taking on a new daughter or son-in-law, or mother or father-in-law. Maybe the kids are gone for the first time in 18 years, or maybe you have a new kid. There are a thousand things that I feel unequipped in or unworthy of, and I know I am not alone.

Whether you were doing something for the first time or taking over for someone else, what is an experience you have had where you felt like you were not worthy to do or ready for the job at hand?

Read the text out loud and discuss questions.

Deuteronomy 34:9 and Joshua 1:1-9

- ***What stands out to you in these passages?***
- ***According to Deuteronomy 34:9. What is Joshua filled with?
Why is this important?***

- ***In Joshua 1:1-5 What is God telling Joshua; the facts and the big picture?***

He is making sure that Joshua knows this: the way God was faithful to Moses is promised to Joshua. God has given clear direction. And he will be with Joshua the same way.

- ***What kind of hope should this provide to us as followers of Jesus today?***
- ***Read vs 6-9***
- ***There are 3 phrases repeated in these verses. Which phrases are repeated?***
- ***What might someone be facing if they were told to be strong and courageous?***

- **God knows we will face trouble and be tempted.**
- **According to God's repetition what might we be tempted to do?**
- **Also, according to God's repetition, what happens when we are focused on what God has told us to do? "You will have good_____"**
- **This may be a hard question to answer, but we really want you to be honest with each other.**
- **What is your measure of success?**

As a group paraphrase or restate the message that God is saying to Joshua.

Here is what I think it seems like God is saying, *"Remember how I have shown myself faithful in the past to whomever has gone faithfully before you? I will do the same for you. And when you act wisely in accordance to the laws, or guidelines for holiness, (which I have instituted), and you stay focused, you will find good success."*

I think our biggest problem is that we are measuring success based on other peoples' lives and the worlds standards. Joshua is Joshua, Moses is Moses, and you are you.

A.W. Tozer said, *"We can never know who or what we are till we know at least something of what God is."* Are you guilty of making God into your image, or are you learning about who God is and trying to be more like Him. This is extremely hard counter culture life work, BUT, be encouraged...

Read Vs. 9.

Does your measure of success need to be changed?

What sort of practices do you have that help you learn about who God is?

Share with the group ways that you make space to hear from God, or studies you do, or books you read to encourage depth of knowledge of God.

Practice:

Joshua had a pretty good chapter in the story of God, and we have the opportunity to have an amazing one as well. No one but Moses can play the role of Moses, and the same is true for you too. Your role in this life matters to the people around you and to the next generation of followers of Christ? Our hope is that you not only know this, but you take it seriously. This week, if you are feeling like God is a stranger and you want to get to know Him better, start reading through Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John...and do it SLOWLY. There is no better way to understand who God is, than by reading biographies of Jesus. You are not in a hurry. Read to learn and understand what Jesus said, who he said it to and why he might have done the things he did! Pay attention, you might just decide to change some things about the way you think, react, and count as success.

Anyone have any thoughts or questions?

Prayer Request and closing Prayer

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. sarah@thechapelatseaside.com

Quotes from Sermon:

“Comparison is a thief and a liar. It is the fastest way to be disappointed in what you have and who you are.” - Andrew Beard

“We can never know who or what we are till we know at least something of what God is.” AW Tozer, in his book, the Knowledge of the Holy,