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# **Joshua | BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS Series**

*Text: Joshua 1*

# *For the week of Sunday, March 05, 2017*

# **Opening the Conversation**

In the closing verses of Deuteronomy, God delivers a message to Moses. It is a “transitional leader moment.” Why are shifts in leadership important?

**The Text**

Joshua 1

**God Commissions Joshua**

**1**After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, **2**“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. **3**Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. **4**From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. **5**No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. **6**Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. **7**Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. **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 according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

**Joshua Assumes Command**

**10**And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, **11**“Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.’”

**12**And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said, **13**“Remember the word that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, ‘The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.’ **14**Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, **15**until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

**16**And they answered Joshua, “All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. **17**Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you, as he was with Moses! **18**Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous.”

**Keeper Quote**

A leader is a person you will follow to a place you would not go by yourself.

**Life Group Discussion Questions**

1. Responding to God’s call for leadership required experience, strength, and courage. God had granted Joshua considerable experience before Moses’ death. Now he commands Joshua to be strong and courageous. What was the significance of this word to Joshua to “be strong and courageous . . . for I am with you”? Have you ever experienced a “faith move” like this? Share with the group.
2. What did you discover during this time? What strength, courage, and promise of God’s presence did you experience?
3. The word **successful** appears in verses 7 and 8, and also the word **prosperous** to which it attaches at the end of verse 8. Do these words support a “prosperity gospel”? Why, or why not?

Illustration

Chuck Swindoll tells about working with a crusty, rugged guy named Tex when he served as an apprentice at a machine shop. Tex was always washed up and ready to go as soon as the whistle blew for lunch or quitting time. Chuck asked him how he got ready so fast, and he said, *“Let me tell you something, sonny. I just stay ready to keep from getting ready*.”

1. We have a common saying at Fellowship, “The difference between believing and following is **MOVEMENT**.” What are some promptings God uses to prepare and get you ready for His move? Why is readiness important?

Background | Verses 12-18

Taking the land was not just for those who had lived there but for all twelve tribes. It was essential that Reuben, Gad, and the one-half tribe of Manasseh help their brothers conquer the promised land before they settled east of the Jordan River.

These tribes which decided to settle on the east side of the Jordan river (land that Israel had already conquered) had promised to cross over and help the rest of the nation take the land on the west side of the Jordan river (see [Numbers 32:16-32](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Numbers+32:16-32&t1=en_nas)).

Application: This same principle operates in the Body of Christ. When one member has a need, it is the common need of the body (see [1 Corinthians 12:25-26](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=1%20Corinthians+12:25-26&t1=en_nas)). We should never refuse to help a brother in need because our own state is settled.

In verses 16-18 we see the response of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh). How did these tribes react to Joshua’s challenge? See verses 16-18.

1. Everyone has a “River Jordan” that seems impossible. When you stare at the “River Jordan” of your life, what do you see - the swirling muddy water of spiritual failures, sins, fears, and habits? Some persistent physical problem? The steady flow of broken relationships?
2. The Greek name *Jesus* simply translates the Hebrew name *Joshua*. Their names are identical. Whatever Israel received in the Promised Land, they received through the hand of Joshua; whatever we receive from God we receive through Jesus Christ, our Joshua.

As you close, share some personal blessings that your “Joshua” has promised you.