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**Joshua | BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS Series**

*Text: Joshua 18-19; Guest Speaker/ Andy Castro*

# *For the week of Sunday, May 07, 2017*

# **Opening the Conversation**

*“Peace is the deliberate adjustment of my life to the will of God.”* – Anonymous

Can you share a time in your life when you had to adjust to a different “agenda” - God’s vs. your own.

**The Text:** Joshua 18-19

The last seven words of 19:51 sum of these two chapters: “And so they finished dividing the land.” Three major things happen in these chapters: 1) the focus changes from Gilgal to Shiloh; 2) seven remaining tribes get their allocation of land; and 3) Joshua receives his city.

The Backstory

In the beginning of chapter 18, as tribes were sent farther and farther away from Gilgal, the necessity of a central place of meeting and worship became obvious. Furthermore, complacency had settled over seven tribes who failed to take any action regarding their land allotments.

So in the early verses of chapter 18, Joshua faced a different problem. Seven tribes weren’t complaining like Ephriam and Manasseh; they just weren’t taking any action. They had the waiting part down – but they didn’t have the action to go with it! The chapter opens with the setting up of the Tent of Meeting which could remind the people that they key to prosperity and blessing in the land was worshiping and serving Yahweh. The dissatisfaction of the sons of Joseph with their allotment (17:14-18) was an ominous sign of the future disintegration of the nation because of self-interest. To counteract this tendency, the tabernacle was set up in Shiloh to promote a sense of national unity.

* Why was Joshua impatient with seven of the tribes when they gathered at Shiloh?
* What instructions did Joshua give to the surveyors he sent out? Why do you think these surveyors were appointed from each tribe?
* What was the actual method of dividing up the land?
* Why is organization critical? What in your life have you begun but never finished? What would it take for you to get it going?
* (See 19: 49-51) What inheritance did Joshua receive as a reward for his leadership? What is significant about Joshua getting what he asked for?
* What principles for decision-making do you use?
  + “It’ll all work out.”
  + Chance or luck.
  + Gather all the facts.
  + Personal desires.
  + Thoughtful; prayerful
  + Other
* What challenges you most about taking possession of your rightful inheritance from Christ?