



Sunday, September 8, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 1:1-9

Courage is one of those undervalued virtues in the Christian life. We talk a great deal (and rightly so) about love, patience, humility, and the like, but we don't spend much time talking about courage. Yet courage is absolutely essential for living the Christian life. If the Christian life is a spiritual battle, then courage is required on a number of fronts. It is required to resist temptation, to pursue righteousness, to affirm the truth of the gospel, and to refute false teaching.

So, how can we cultivate courage in our lives? Studying the book of Joshua is a good start! Though the battles being fought in Joshua are physical battles, that wartime mentality is every bit as important for us as we fight not against flesh and blood but against every spiritual force of evil (Eph. 6:12). As we get into this study, we will find out what it means to courageously strive to enter the rest that God has promised (Heb. 4:9-11).

Context

As Pastor Don shared on Sunday, Joshua is set in a key time of transition in the life of the people of Israel. As the narrator states in verse 1, everything that was about to take place happened "after the death of Moses." Despite constant opposition, Moses was seen as an incredible leader for the people of Israel. The end of Deuteronomy even testifies that no one knew the LORD like Moses, whom He knew "face to face" (Deut. 34:10). It is reasonable to think, then, that all of the talk of fear and courage in the first chapter of Joshua is connected to the death of Moses and the uncertainty that the future held. But, the LORD was about to remind His people that the effectiveness of Moses' leadership was due only to the presence of God, something He promised to Joshua also.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 1:1-9

“Get Ready to Be Free”

Who is Joshua?

- Slave in Egypt
- Soldier in Israelite army
- Aide to Moses
- Spy to Canaan
- God’s replacement for Moses

Promises Given

- Promise of Land
- Promise of Victory
- Promise of Presence

Three-fold charge

- Enter the land (1-5)
- Defeat the enemy (6-12)
- Divide the territory (13-22)
 - o Joshua’s farewell (23-24)

Promises given...courage required

- How do we claim our inheritance? Courage
- How do we find courage? Word

God has nothing for anyone of us except what we find in the Lord Jesus Christ. – Alan Redpath

