

SUNDAY 23.06.2024

WHEN WE RE-ADJUST OUR FOCUS

JOSHUA 1:1-10 NIV

Introduction

- ▶ How many of us have ever taken photos on our phone or camera? As you looked you found they were completely out of focus and looked a bit blurry. Then you retook the photo, by adjusting your settings or by adjusting your lens and focusing the camera lens until you get the right shot

- ▶ Joshua 1 serves as an inspirational narrative of perspective, courage, obedience, and divine presence. It paints a picture of a leader stepping into significant shoes yet buoyed by divine promise and the unity of his people.

- ▶ It reminds us that we can conquer any 'Promised Land' that stands before us with faith, courage, and obedience to God's word.

1. When we re-adjust our focus our perspective about God becomes clear.

Everyone's eyes were so focused on Moses, then Moses died. Most people were discouraged, some of them lost hope, and yet others doubted God.

▶ The same God who appointed Moses commissioned Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, a territory stretching from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. Joshua had the same divine calling as Moses.

2. When we re-adjust our focus, we begin to see His promises (3-4)

- ▶ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates, all the Hittite country to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.

When Moses died some concluded that
“we will never get there.”

The devil thought that Killing Jesus on
the cross would end God’s plan, even
His disciples went back fishing.

“Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. (John 21:2-3).

Have you gone back to fishing because his promise for you does not make sense any more?

When I talk about fishing, I mean things that we believe give us meaning and purpose.

3. When we re-just our focus we begin to see His Divine Presence (Verses 5-6)

- ▶ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

- ▶ Verse 6, “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land, I swore to their ancestors to give them.”
- a) God promises Joshua that just as He was with Moses, He will be with him. He guarantees Joshua's success and asks him to be strong and courageous.

b) God's divine presence is still with us even today, through times of joy and sadness. He was with Joseph even in prison.

4. When we re-adjust our focus, we become Obedient to His word (Verses 7-8)

- ▶ Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

a) God emphasizes the importance of obeying the Law that Moses handed down. He encourages Joshua to meditate on it day and night, promising success if he does so.

b) When our focus is blurred even his words will not make sense.

▶ So, how can we foster obedience to God's word in our daily lives, as Joshua did?

5. When we re-adjust our focus, we begin to experience His strength and Courage (verse 9)

- ▶ “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

- a) God reiterates the call for Joshua to be strong and courageous.
- b) How might you display strength and courage in your current challenges, following Joshua's example?

c) The first thing I will say is to take action.

d) Prayer: Never underestimate the power of prayer. Why not start today by calling out to God and laying our cares and burdens on Him?