

Forward 4.5 – Onward (Adelante)

Joshua 1:1-11 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." **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.'" Joshua 1:10, 11 (ESV)

So, Joshua's command to the people was not meant for just one of them, the command was for all of them.

This exciting story began in the book of Genesis with Abraham who was the father of Israel. God promised Abraham 3 things:

- 1) he promised him land, which was a place called Canaan,
- 2) he promised him wealth! the wealth God promised was agricultural production - God said, the land would "Flow with Milk and Honey."
- 3) he promised him a huge family, the family was the people of Israel,

Joshua's story is colorful, exciting, relevant, fresh, and it speaks to us where we live.

The children of Israel are at one of their lowest points. Tired and weary, they've lived on the back side of a desert for 40 years... wandering. God promised to lead them back into the land of their fathers. But not without loving obedience.

And even in spite of their mistakes, God intervened.

What mistakes: well in a nutshell:

- 1) They lived in the past. Several times when they were confronted with a challenge they regretted leaving Egypt. To them living in bondage had become more comfortable than trusting God and fighting through challenges of God's Perfect Will. (Numbers 14:1-4)
- 2) They compromised the present. How? By being disobedience. Moses even predicted it would happen, in Duet 31:27. Not sure how widespread it was, but God was not happy with Israel. Their disobedience to God was always an issue, it's the main reason they remained in the desert for so long.
- 3) They gave up on the future, they settled! After 40 long years, the people of Israel just settled, "**they settled on the wrong side of the river.**"

Verse 1. "And the Lord said..." When God speaks great things happen.

When God speaks 4 things happened:

- 1) Leadership emerges.
- 2) Devotion to God's Word Is Demanded.
(Joshua 1:6-10) READ IT
How to "Meditating on Scripture"
 - Memorize the verse: read it, re-read it and then read again and again.
 - Make it personal as you repeat the verse – own IT!
 - Emphasize each word – read it like this:
 - I (your name) can do all things through Christ which strengthens me!
- 3) When God Speaks Strength is Offered. Verse 5, "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life (ESV). (Slide)

Fourthly, when the Lord speaks....

- 4) When God Speaks Action follows

****Application****

What can you do different? I know a few things you can do right here at Christian Life!

- Know God!
- Find Freedom
 - We are not a church with small groups, we are a church of small groups.
- Discover your purpose
- Make an Impact

Hosea 6:2 says this: "After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence."

That is the spirit of this passage in Joshua. It's a generation of people moving Forward, ONWARD! (Adelante)

It's time for us to move onward into our 3rd day, fresh start, new hope promises!

How to move onward into our 3rd day hope!

1) Like Israel, Listen to Our Joshua.

The question we need to ask ourselves is, "What is Jesus saying to me?"

- 2) Follow the officers... (leaders in the church). Many people do not understand the power of flowing with the vision of the church. They don't see the need!
- 3) Be willing to leave behind what you have settled for! In fact, you must refuse to live outside of God's promised land.
- 4) Refuse to live on someone else's land "take possession of the land God is giving you for your own". By this I mean, you need to make this thing Personal... take some ownership!

5) Start acting / living in Faith. Get Ready!

Can you see yourself living free from addictions? Get ready and lay down that vice.

Can you see yourself free financially? Get ready by cleaning up your sloppy spending!

Can you see yourself healthy? Get ready by changing those eating habits!

Can you see new relationships? Get ready sign up for a C-Group!

Can you see yourself making a difference? Get ready, get on an impact team!

Do you have faith enough for this onward move?

Joshua 4:11, "and when ALL the people had finished passing over" They all went! We are all in this thing together.