

BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS

DATE: SUNDAY, 21ST OF JUNE 2021 | DARING GREATLY SERIES: PART 1

JOSHUA 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, ... As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

"Be strong and very courageous. ... 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. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 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."

NOTES FOR LEADERS:

We are meeting online at 09H00 every Sunday. There are no in-person services currently.

START TALKING

1. Was there anything in Sunday's message that you found challenging?
2. What would be your worst "fear factor" challenge?

START THINKING

1. Read Joshua 1:8. Why do you think God's instruction to Joshua was to meditate on The Law (God's Word) day and night? What are the benefits of meditating on Scripture on a regular basis? When do you make time to read His Word?
2. Read Joshua 1:5. What is so important about God promising to be with Joshua as He was with Moses? How can God's faithfulness in the past help us to face adversity in the future?

START SHARING

1. Read Joshua 1:6-9. Steve said the kind of strength and courage referred to in these scriptures is a choice. Share about a time when you had to choose courage in the face of fear. What was the situation and the outcome? What did you learn about God through this? What did you learn about yourself?
2. On Sunday, Steve said that everything worthwhile in our futures requires strength and courage; and that future generations are impacted by our choices today. Where is God taking you that requires strength and courage?

START PRAYING

Lord, you are with us because you promised it – You said that You would never leave us or forsake us. We want to be people who choose strength and courage. We want to be those who find our source of spiritual courage in Your presence and Your Word. We thank you that the result of our strength and courage is that others will get to inherit – to step into the plans you have for all of us. Amen.

START DOING

Read Joshua chapters 1-11 so that you have context as we work through some lessons from this exciting book of the Bible over the next five weeks.

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, we started a new series called Daring Greatly. In this series, we'll be looking at five lessons from the book of Joshua. This book is a story of conquest, hardship, God's provision and taking more ground.

To understand this week's story, we need a little context to the book of Joshua. Going back 500 years before Joshua, there was a guy named Abraham, who had a son called Isaac and a grandson, Jacob. They all lived in a place called Canaan – known as the "promised land". In the time of Joseph (Jacob's son), the whole family (70 people according to Genesis 46:27) migrated east to Egypt. They lived in Egypt for 430 years before leaving (Exodus 12:40). The journey back to the promised land should only have taken a few weeks – at the most a couple of months. But because of their disobedience, they ended up wandering in the desert for 40!

Joshua chapter 1 begins with them amped out beside the Jordan River, about to cross and enter the "promised land".

All this time from the Exodus out of Egypt, and while they were wandering around the desert, Moses was leading them. This was arguably the toughest leadership assignment given to anyone in the Bible. The nation had grown to around 3 million people. There were at least 600 000 men over the age of 20 (we read that in the book Numbers). During this time, Moses saw huge miracles and talked with God like a friend; the Law was given to him. Imagine being the leadership successor of Moses – he left big shoes to fill!

And that's who Joshua was- Moses's successor. So, in Joshua chapter 1, Joshua has just been made the leader and received an assignment from God. He was about to go over the Jordan River into the "promised land" (which was occupied by people who didn't want to give it up). They were facing warfare without having fought much before. God is giving them the land, but it's going to come at a price. Camped in the desert across the Jordan River from Jericho, they were probably terrified to go forward and even more terrified to go back from where they'd come!

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: *"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.* Joshua 1:1-9.

It's like God is telling Joshua that it's the end of a season, and now they need to get ready to move forward. To move into the new usually involves letting go of the old. Every new thing God has for us involves a change of season and leaving old things behind. You may love change or fear it, but regardless of how you feel about change, there will always be seasons in our lives that are just tough.

I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 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. 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. Joshua 1:3-5.

It's like God is saying, "as I was in your past, so I will be in your future".

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

"Be strong and very courageous. 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. 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. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 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." Joshua 1:6-9

1. THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH & COURAGE

(This comes from God's presence and His Word)

PRESENCE:

I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:5
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

WORD:

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. Joshua 1:8
Read it (keep it on your lips), meditate on it and obey it.

2. THE CHOICE OF STRENGTH & COURAGE

Be strong and courageous. Joshua 1:6
Be strong and very courageous. Joshua 1:7
Have I not commanded you? Be strong & courageous. Joshua 1:9

This kind of strength and courage is a choice, not an emotion. Three times over, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous = there is an emphasis through God saying it three times. When God commands something, we choose to do it. We can choose to put on the garment strength and courage because of what God has for us in the future. Underneath are still the uncertainties and insecurities etc., but there is something about obeying this command that works from the outside in. Tell your soul – you are brave! God is with you.

3. THE RESULT OF STRENGTH & COURAGE

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Joshua 1:6

All worthwhile inheritance requires strength and courage! In the book of Joshua, there are loads of stories of God's miraculous help. But the help is preceded by Joshua choosing strength and courage as directed by God!

Everything worthwhile in our futures requires strength and courage. Joshua's choice of strength and courage had ramifications on generations to come.

Where God is taking you requires strength and courage. Where God is taking us as a church requires strength and courage. Future generations are impacted by our choices today. Don't give up.

God's word to Joshua is God's word to all of us.