

“The Man with the Plan”

God’s Word:

Joshua 1:1-11, 16, 17

Key Verses:

“Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.”

Joshua 1:6

Breaking It Down:



OK, so Moses died. The Israelites had this INCREDIBLE leader who led them out of Egypt, through the desert, and even led them through their first battles. However, as a result of his disobedience, Moses wasn’t allowed to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. So, Moses died, and the Israelites mourned his death for 30 days. (Deuteronomy 34:8)

The beginning of the book of Joshua starts out with God telling Joshua that Moses was dead. God wasn’t telling Joshua something that he didn’t know *intellectually*. Joshua had been mourning Moses’ death for the last 30 days! Instead, God was telling Joshua something like,

“You’ve mourned enough. Moses is dead and **you’re** the leader now. Get yourself ready for what I’m going to do through you.”

You see, it wasn’t Joshua’s intellect or his big biceps or his winning personality that was going to win battles for the Israelites. God told him that He was going to give this land to Joshua and He was going to make it so that no one in Canaan could resist them. God was going to remember His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by giving the people success in overtaking this land.

God is *amazing*. God is *SO powerful*. God will give us *whatever we want!* Right? NO! (to the last statement) Before you start thinking that Joshua was off the hook, verses 7-9 say that if Joshua wanted to be successful, he had to keep God's commandments. He had to live, breathe, think, speak, and then think some more about God's law. He had to not only put God's Word in his heart, but he also had to live it out and live like he believed it.

=====

Living It:

This is great news for Joshua and the Israelites but what does this passage mean for us? As a young person, you have your whole life ahead of you. If God wills it, you might go to college, get a job, maybe get married one day, have and raise kids, watch them decide to go to church, marry them off, and then retire. The thing is, you can do all these things and never do anything great for God.

I believe that God has a purpose for your life. He created you to do something that no one else can do but you. He wants you to dedicate your life to Him, allow Him to work through you each day, and for you to give 110% of yourself to Him. Just like God called Joshua to go out and take the land, He's calling you to go out and start little revolutions in your corner of the world to win people over to following Jesus.



He's commanded us to do this. Matthew 28:19 tells us to go and make disciples. John 16:13 says that the Holy Spirit will guide you in this, and verse 8 says that He will even convict people of sin through your words and life. Revelation 22:5 says that these people God wins to Himself will one day reign under Christ forever and ever. The greatest thing you can ever do is live each day 110% for Christ, one day at a time and forget about your good deeds of yesterday.

=====

=====

Questions:

1. How many days did Joshua give the Israelite camp to prepare before they were to enter Canaan?
2. To whom did God swear that He would give the land of Canaan?
3. Where else in the New Testament does God tell His people that He will never leave them nor forsake them, as it says in Joshua 1:5?
4. What are some of the things that terrify you about sharing your faith? (Come on. Be honest.) What can you do to overcome this fear?

=====

Do It!

This week, make a list of at least 5 things that you do well (your God-given talents). Then, pray about your abilities and afterward make a list of at least 5 things you'd like to do for God. Finally, for each of the things that you'd like to do for God, write one sentence stating how you can use your talents to accomplish those tasks. If you have a hard time with this, stop, pray again, even talk with your parents or call your Sabbath School teacher on the phone. Then try it again.

