

Remnant Life Church
May 27, 2018
Embracing Change Well
Joshua 1:1-9

- It has been said that the only constant in life is change
- Well we here at Remnant Life Church are about to undergo a significant change
 - But everyone handles change differently
 - Some well, some not so well
 - This is certainly true in churches
 - “But we’ve never done it that way before!”
 - “But we’ve always done it that way!”
 - Two statements often heard that bear that fact to be true
- Yet change is inevitable...and most often necessary
 - Water stays clear, vibrant, and beautiful when it is in motion
 - When it stops, it gets stagnant, scum often forms on the surface, and it becomes a breeding ground for all kinds of unpleasant things
 - The same can be said for our lives and the life of a church
- And so as important as change can be how do we handle something that can be difficult and even upsetting well?

READ – Joshua 1:1-9

- Let’s look at the 2 names in these 9 verses – Moses and Joshua
 - Moses
 - Born a Hebrew; raised in the courts of Pharaoh; exiled and lived in Midian as a shepherd for 40 years; was sent back by God to confront Pharaoh; led the people out of Egypt; wandered in the desert for 40 more years
 - Now the people are at the Jordan river with Canaan just on the other side as God has taken Moses up on Mt. Nebo to see the Promised Land before he dies
 - They had been here once before, but God’s punishment had to be carried out to the people for their lack of faith – 12 spies (**Num 13**)
 - There was also God’s punishment of Moses because he doubted God and His instructions to get water at Kadesh (**Numbers 20:9-11**)
 - Joshua
 - Likely in his early to mid-20’s when they left Egypt meaning he was born a slave
 - Selected from the fighting men, minimum age 20, as one of the 12 spies
 - 40 more years in the desert would make him in his 60’s when God makes him leader of the nation
 - He was hand-picked by God to succeed Moses and complete the journey of bringing God’s people into Canaan (the promised land)

- NOTE - Canaan is not a representation of heaven – (walled cities, giants, chariots of war...)
 - It was a land of conflict (just like the life of the Christian living in a world of sin)
 - But it was also a land of conquest (like the life of the Christian through Jesus Christ)
- Most Christians are more comfortable and spend more time in the NT than the OT
 - Want to read about Jesus
 - But everything of the OT points to Jesus in some way
 - The same is true with this story of the Nation of Israel
- The accounts and stories of the OT are very often given as a type (meaning similar to or a representation of) for the NT
- How is that true for these 2 men?
 - Moses – was a type, a representation of the Law (10 command.)
 - But he, like the law, was not what was required to take the people into the promised land
 - **Rom 8:3** - *For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering...*
 - The law cannot bring us into the fullness of the blessings of God in the Gospel of Christ – only Jesus can do that
 - Joshua – a type or representation of Jesus
 - His birth name – Hoshea – means “salvation” (**Num 13:8**)
 - Joshua (name given by Moses) “Jehovah saves”
 - Moses (the law) would not take people into the promise land (a new life) that responsibility would fall to Joshua
 - The name Joshua is a form of the name Jesus
 - But the way would not be easy
 - Joshua’s initial task – cross the Jordan river (**Josh 3**) at flood stage (**Josh 3:15**)
 - The Jordan River is mentioned 186 times in the NIV with all but 15 of them in the OT
 - It begins south of Mt Hermon and Mt Lebanon flowing into the Sea of Galilee
 - Continues and empties into the Dead Sea
 - That 75 mile stretch of the river is the predominant one of the OT
 - Averages 90 feet across and 3 – 10 feet deep but at flood stage it can swell to nearly half a mile wide; deepen several times over; and become what you picture with the words “raging river”
 - The Jordan is where Gideon’s men stooped to drink (**Judg 7:1-8**)

- where Jacob wrestled with the Angel of God ([Gen 32:22-31](#))
 - it was the plain Lot chose when he and Abraham separated ([Gen 13:10](#))
 - where Naaman was cured of his leprosy ([2 Kings 5:14](#))
 - and of course, where John baptized including Jesus ([Matt 3:13](#))
 - it was also used as a border or boundary for nations ([Deut 3:17](#))
 - The crossing of the Jordan itself is also used as a type or representation – that of death and resurrection
 - Joshua had to take the people through the waters
 - Just as Moses did the first time at the Red Sea symbolizing the leaving their old life (captivity) for their new lives (a free nation) – ([Ex 14:15-22](#))
 - Joshua did the same at the Jordan symbolizing their leaving the life of punishment for their doubt wandering in the desert into their lives of a blessed nation
 - We did the same thing at our baptismal service
 - But Moses had to die for that to happen so that Joshua could lead them in
 - It was Joshua who allotted each tribe their territory in the new land
 - This is a picture of the blessings of God made available to us when we turn our backs on the old, sinful nature and give ourselves to Jesus for a life made new and forgiven
 - Most often, for us to pass from one stage of our lives to another (change), the old will need to be left behind or die
- What did God command Joshua to do? (Commands for us to live by today as well)
 1. Get ready ([v 2](#))
 - a. Change means preparation
 - i. Not just physically but emotionally
 - ii. Change is rarely easy
 - b. Action must accompany your faith ([Jas 1:22](#) – *don't just hear it, do it*)
 2. Obey all the laws ([v 7](#))
 - a. Blessing come through obedience to the Word of God
 - b. Do not expect God's blessing in your life if you ignore His Word
 - c. The wonder of God's love for us, however, is that it is never too late to repent, turn from your sin, and know His forgiveness
 3. Meditate on His Word ([v 8](#))
 - a. Meditate is a word stolen and perverted by the enemy (new-age)
 - b. The original Hebrew is hagah (hah-GAH), which means "to moan, growl, or utter."

- i. This is not hearing the Word and going, "Huh. That's interesting."
- ii. It is to dwell on it, wrestle with it, completely devote your thoughts to, study deeply, to think on intensely.
- c. When we do this, we are centered on His will for our lives
- d. In other words, it will govern your actions and your words

4. Don't be afraid or get discouraged (v 9)

- a. Fear and afraid – over 500 times in the NIV
- b. Fear wipes out faith
- c. Discouragement will take away your strength
- d. **Prov 17:22** - *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*

5. Finally, be strong and courageous (vv 6, 7, 9)

- a. Three times God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous
- b. Why did God focus on these aspects of human behavior and emotion – fear and courage?
 - i. Because a person can choose them
 - ii. Courage is an interesting thing. You can find courage and you can lose it. You can take courage, stir up courage, gather courage, and keep your courage. In other words, courage is up to you. We choose to be fearful, and we choose to be courageous.
 - iii. **Phil. 4:13** - *I can do all things through him who gives me strength.*

- Why was God preparing His people in this way?
 - What was the first thing they were going to encounter on the other side of the Jordan?
 - The walled, impregnable city of Jericho
 - But they were going to battle it in a way never done before
 - It would require their faith to be strong
 - It would require that they have courage
- What did Joshua have that was most important in what God wanted them to do?
 - The promise of **Joshua 1:5**
 - *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.*
- What is it in your life right now that is requiring you to be strong and courageous?
- It will require you to
 - Be ready
 - Obey the Word of God
 - Make His will the center of your thoughts and actions
 - Don't allow fear or discouragement to take seed in your life
 - Be strong and courageous because of His presence