

Looking at Joshua preparing for Leadership. One of the first mention of him/most fundamental; The issue of faith.

I. THE DIVIDING LINE

A. Not everyone winds up the same in life – even with the same circumstances & opportunities

1. The Bible records 12 spies on the same mission: Yet not all were the same

a. *Numbers 14:6 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes...*

2. The dividing line is faith: Confidence/trust

a. *I have seen men/churches all over the world – and the dividing line begins with faith!*

3. The difference comes from within/what is on the inside

b. *Joshua 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.*

B. The basis of faith

1. **It begins with your view of God/how you see God**

a. *Dan 11:32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.*

1. *He loves us/He wants to help us...He is powerful/He is faithful*

2. **It affects how you see each situation:** 10 saw giants/walls – Joshua/Caleb saw opportunity/victory

a. *4 men/paralyzed friend: Didn't see paralysis/time/crowd/obstacles...looking for a way for Jesus to move!*

3. **It determines how you see yourself:** *Numbers 13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."*

a. *Hudson Taylor: All God's giants have been weak men, who did great things for God b/c they believed that God would be with them."*

II. OVERCOMING

A. Faith is not real unless it is able to overcome some things

1. *1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*

B. 2 areas we must learn to overcome in the fight of faith

1. **Negative people:** The other 10 spies...the entire congregation of people

a. *Deuteronomy 1:28 Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."*

1. Religious/other disciples/pastors/people in the congregation

2. **A discouraging situation:** God lets us/makes us get into battles in life (whole book of Joshua a book of battles!)

a. *Numbers 13:28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.*

1. Walls: Difficult to overcome 2. Giants: People (or demons) who fight back!

b. **Different for each:** \$/sickness/fruitfulness/marriage/job...

1. *Have to believe God in spite of the situation 2. You have to be able to change things*

III. RECOVERING FAITH

A. Every person will struggle in the area of faith

1. They will face a setback and become totally discouraged (*even if they were excited and full of faith before*)

a. *Disciples: O ye of little faith/where is your faith...*

b. *Joshua 7:6 Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.*

c. *1 Samuel 30:6 Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.*

2. Many men make mistakes here

a. *They change their theology b. Stop laboring c. Isolate from others d. Fight with their wife e. Get suspicious of Pastor*

B. You have to possess the ability to bounce back – recover your faith

1. *1 Samuel 30:6 Now David was greatly distressed...But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.*

a. The ability to find God in the midst of despair

1. *Prayer/the word/fighting back/connecting with Pastor/encouragement from friends*

2. Will never be a successful man of God unless you can bounce back