**“A Life Lived for God” [The Book of *Joshua*]**

“Back on Track” Joshua 8:1-2, May 1, 2022

The Lord is reestablishing His plan for the Israelite’s victory.

He’ll establish them in:

1. Their Confidence
2. Their Destination
3. His Promise
4. Their Victory
5. Their Tactics

**“Back on Track” Joshua 8:1-2**

*1And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: 2And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it.*

**God doesn’t hold grudges when He forgives.**

**Jeremiah 31:34** *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

**Philippians 3:13-16** *13Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

God establishes Joshua and the Israelites in**: 1. Their Confidence** *“And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed:…”*

**Joshua 1:9** *9Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

**Joshua 7:8-9** *8O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! 9For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?*

**“…Fear not, neither be thou dismayed:…”**

**Joshua 1:5** *5There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

**Hidden sin has a detrimental impact on the cause of Christ.**

**The more we have confidence in ourselves, the less we have confidence in God.**

**Proverbs 3:5-***7 5Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

**Stay away from sin, fully rely on God.**

He establishes them in: **2. Their Destination** *“…take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai:…”*

**The problem was “who” selected it.**

He will reestablish: **3. His Promise** *“…I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land:…”*

**Joshua 6:2** *2And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.*

**1 John 1:9** *9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

He establishes them in: **4. Their Victory** *“And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves:…”*

**At Jericho everything was off-limits, at Ai, nothing was off-limits!**

**Deuteronomy 26:1-2** *1And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; 2That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.*

**We cannot outgive God!**

**Malachi 3:10** *10Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

**God rewards faithfulness.**

He will establish them in: **5. Their Tactics** *“…lay thee an ambush for the city behind it.”*

**God doesn’t always handle situations the same way, but His ways are always best.**

**Hebrews 12:10-11** *10For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

**Romans 8:28-29** *28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

**Both fruitfulness and failure are used to conform us to the image of Christ.**

**God’s stance on sin is always the same.**

**Proverbs 8:13** *13The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.*

**Psalms 5:4-5** *4For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. 5The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.*

**1 Peter 1:16** *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

**Jeremiah 29:11** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

**Isaiah 55:8** *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

**Have confidence in Him.**

**Trust the destination He has for you.**

**Hold onto His promises.**

**Claim the victory He’s already given you.**

**If you have lost your way on the journey, it is time that you get “Back on Track!”**

**REMINDER – WE HAVE A MALAWI MISSIONS MEETING AFTER SERVICE FOR ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN GOING.**

***Back On Track***

Questions for Wednesday May 4, 2022

1. As we saw in God’s interaction with Joshua and the Israelites in the message, He’d given them a “Do Over!” As He treated them as He had prior to the issue of Achan’s sin. Give at least one Biblical example of someone else who experienced a “Do Over!” with God.

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**Bonus:** If you’ve experienced a “Do Over!” with God, share what His forgiveness has meant to you, and how it has impacted your life moving forward.

2. What are some of the dangers that come along with having too much confidence in ourselves and why does it always decrease our confidence in God?

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3. Why is it so important to wait on God when it comes to us determining the direction and destination of our lives? And how do we know that it’s God directing us and not our own desires?

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4. List at least two verses that speak to God’s faithfulness.

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5. If you struggle with faithfulness in an area of your walk with God, what are some things you can do to become more faithful?

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6. Why did God altar His original command about the spoils that He’d made at Jericho, allowing them to have the spoils of Ai?

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7. What was the one thing that we mentioned in the message about God that’s predictable? And how does His consistency in this area impact our understanding of Him?

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**Bonus**: In the last seven days, have you been a witness for Jesus Christ through sharing His word, testifying of Him or giving a tract to someone?