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

**85 - God’s Commands Realized, Joshua 11.16-20 (01.22.23)**

Review from last week: “Leave Nothing Undone” [Joshua 11:10-15] Discipleship is the “work of the Lord”. The mission is to Reach the World!

**Today’s Message “God’s Commands Realized” [Joshua 11:16-20]**

*16So Joshua took all that land, the hills, and all the south country, and all the land of Goshen, and the valley, and the plain, and the mountain of Israel, and the valley of the same; 17Even from the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir, even unto Baal–gad in the valley of Lebanon under mount Hermon: and all their kings he took, and smote them, and slew them. 18Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. 19There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle. 20For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses.*

**As we continue on the path to conquering our spiritual “Promised Land”, let’s assess where we stand in that journey.**

**Key Points Today from Joshua 11:16-20**

1. Ground Taken for God
2. Wicked Rulers Defeated
3. Rebellion Crushed
4. God’s Judgment Delivered
5. **Ground Taken for God [Joshua 11:16-17]**
* *“Joshua took all that land…”* While the main forces have been defeated, we’ll see in coming chapters that there are still factions of enemies scattered around.
* Joshua recounts what has been conquered so far in his Conquest of Canaan
* Joshua chapter 13 will highlight all the areas yet to be conquered, but for now all **the major strongholds have fallen**.

**Have we allowed our Lord Jesus Christ to gain control? Have the evil strongholds in our lives lost foothold?**

Would we be able to describe them with broad strokes?

* **Jesus has control over my TONGUE**
* **1 Peter 2:1** *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,”*
* **Jesus has control over my EYES**
* **Matthew 5:28** *“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”*
* **Jesus has control over my EARS**
* **Mark 4:23-24** “*23If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. 24And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.”*
* **Jesus has control over my MIND/THOUGHTS**
* **2 Corinthians 10:5** “*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*
* **Jesus has control over my DREAMS/ASPIRATIONS**
* **Matthew 20:26-28** *“26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

Does God have possession of our hearts, our tongues, our eyes, our minds and thoughts, our dreams, and our aspirations for His GLORY?

**Proverbs 4:23-27** *23Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. 24Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. 25Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. 26Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

**Our Hearts rule them all! Does “our Joshua” (our Jesus Christ) have control of our hearts?**

**The only way we can be successful in our Christian lives is for Jesus to have control!**

**1 Peter 5:6-7** *6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

Joshua set his heart on pleasing God, no matter what it would require, and he is completely dependent on God.

1. **Wicked Rulers Defeated [Joshua 11:16,18]**
* Where a “Stronghold” is to be defeated, its **king** must be killed.
* Our flesh with its carnal will pulls out all the stops to maintain control of our tongues, our eyes, our minds and thoughts, our dreams, our aspirations, and our hearts.

**2 Timothy 3:2-4** *2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

*4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

**Colossians 3:5** *5Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

**This is the battle for our “Promised Land”.** Did you notice what verse 18 said? *18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.*

The Battle for sanctification… For peace with God… For fellowship with God to gain our “Promise Land” is a war that can rage for years because of our unwillingness to submit to Jesus Christ and place Him on the thrones of our hearts. But we can be victorious…

**Romans 13:11-14** *11And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

Serve God and deny self.

1. **Rebellion Crushed [Joshua 11:19]**
* Their hearts were set on evil and they were willing to die for their fleshly desires.
* There are many people in the world today just like them, unwilling to bow to God.
* **Philippians 2:10** 10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**No one in Hell will be able to claim ignorance. [Romans 1:18-21]**

*18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

**Anyone who does not make peace with God through His Son will face eternal destruction. There are no unbelievers in Hell.**

1. **God’s Judgment Delivered [Joshua 11:20]**
* What does it mean for God to harden a heart?
* **Exodus 4:21** *21And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.*
* Wasn’t Pharaoh already evil and defiant of God?
* Wickedness doesn’t come from God. Evil is a result of an absence of God’s influence. It’s like “light” and “dark”. Darkness is simply an absence of light. When we see God “hardened their heart” God choosing to let someone follow their own wicked heart instead intervening.

**John 13:26-27** *26Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.*

**Judas’ betrayal was crucial in fulfilling Jesus’s mission to die on the cross.**

God allowed the pagans to continue down the path of destruction they had chosen, and it will be through His judgment upon them that the Israelites gain victory and God receives glory.

**Romans 8:28** *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.*

Joshua has done all that God asked of him, he stands as a conqueror over much of his “Promised Land”

How about us? Have we done what God has commanded?

Are we focused on seeing “Our plans realized? Or God’s Commands Realized?

Victory or defeat in this life and in the life to come will be determined by what we choose.

***“God’s Commands Realized”* (Personal Bible Study Questions) – Bring this sheet to service on Wednesday at 7PM**

Reference text Joshua 11:16-20

1. The first thing we took note of in our message was the area of land that Joshua had taken control over in Canaan. In considering your life for Christ and the battle for control of your spiritual Promised Land, in what areas does Jesus have control? (tongue, eyes, ears, thoughts,..)

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Bonus: In what areas of your life does Jesus **not have control**? Please explain why these areas are still under your rule and not His?

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2. In your own words, please explain the advantages and disadvantages of Jesus not having lordship over our lives. Please include at least one verse that highlights the danger of self-rule.

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3. This week we revisited the importance of defeating wicked rulers. In your Christian walk, what is the single strongest sinful influence that you find yourself battling the most? What are you doing to defeat it?

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4. Please give a Biblical example of a wicked ruler that was defeated and explain the circumstances that led up to their defeat.

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Bonus: Are you following the same steps to defeat the wicked influence battling you in your Christian walk? If not, then why?

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5. Read Romans 13:11-14 from your notes and give a synopsis of what God’s trying to communicate to us.

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6. Next, we considered how the rebellion that was so pervasive in Canaan was crushed by Joshua and the Israelites. Explain in your own words, how God deals with that same spirit of rebellion in the church age.

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7. What does it require to make peace with God? Support your argument with scripture.

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8. Explain what the Bible means when it describes God “Hardening someone’s heart”.

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Example: Darkness is nothing more than the absence of light.

**HOPE Prayer List- Week of Jan 22, 2023**

*Make this a part of your daily and weekly prayers.*

**Pray for our church**

* For revival in the church, for spiritual protection over the ministry and God’s servants
* For the power of His hand on our ministry & members & ***NEW Laborers!***
* For Pastor David and Christine to be strong in the Lord & faithful, humble, servants of the Lord Jesus Christ
* For our children’s and teen ministries
* For all to be involved in the work of the Lord - **Matthew 28:19-20**

**Requests for God’s Healing and God’s Grace, from members and friends of our ministry:**

* **Christine** - for Granny physically and mentally, and for God’s hand on my sister’s health.
* **Erik** – for his dad, Fred, healing, and successful cancer treatment
* **Brother Jun Rodrigo** (our missionary to the Philippines) – for healing from cancer and treatments
* **Matthew**: for his health, physical strength, and wellbeing
* **Kimberley:** Pray for Monica, Hector, and Eli - health and comfort, and return to church
* **Healing:** Jeff Usher (prostate), Amber (cancer), Brian Rodman (prostate)
* **Karen:** for her health, the right medication, her healing, and return to church
* **Rebekah:** for healing and complete restoration from COVID and the implications
* **Izabel** for her migraines to stop.
* **Yulia:** for her dizziness and her jaw to heal, and for her strength to stay in the Word during her busy schedule
* **Yulia:** Pray for her mom’s health and for God’s mercy, comfort and protection over her.
* **Yulia:** Prayer for Jessie, Aaron, Tucker, Tripp & Serenity and for God’s wisdom and guidance to come to church.
* **James:** Prayer for Sunnie, she is 10 years old and has a brain tumor
* **Gary and Elena Cepeda** – Gary has a cold and Elena has cancer
* **Tony and Anne**-**Marie Buttrick** – Prayer for Teresa Lambert, healing and recovery from Breast Cancer

**Requests for Spiritual Protection, God’s Guidance, and God’s Restoration, from members and friends of our ministry:**

* **Tina and Bob Wolfe** – God’s restoration and guidance for their family, especially for their son, Christian
* **Alana**: for God’s wisdom and guidance for her & Ryan.
* **Alana:** Prayer for **Shannen, Charley, & Isabella (Bella)** for God’s wisdom and guidance & for God’s will.
* **Erik and Kim:** Kire’s spiritual protection in NY and his spiritual growth
* **Alina** – for family healing/reconciliation, for David’s spiritual growth, and for God’s wisdom
* **Tony Buttrick** – coworkers and family members in the Ukraine – for safety and salvations
* **Liz** – for her son, Ben, for a job in a town that is good for his family spiritually
* **Kevin’s cousin**, Brian, asking for God to work in his family and bring restoration
* **Candra:** Harold Styron and family for comfort and strength in their time of pain and grieving.
* **Jeri:** Prayer for God’s guidance and wisdom in her workplace
* **Christine:** pray for Carly’s work, God’s wisdom and help in her new job
* **Pray for Miko’s** safety in Japan and for God to open doors for her to share the gospel.

**Requests For Deliverance, Salvation, and Changed Hearts**

**Miko’s son**: Alan and her sister in Japan, Rina; **Alana’s neighbors:** (Khubush and Nisit) and **her dad**, Deo and her **brother**, Jeewan; **Dexter** -Lecie and Jose; a friend of the ministry: Brian Rodman; **Izabel’s extended family**; **Sabra’s family:** Julius and David; **Jeri Grantham’s dad**; **Karen’s children**: Gandy and Tyler; **Erik’s sister:** Kristen and husband, Javier; Yulia’s mom: Inna

If you have prayer requests that you would like to add to this list, please reach out to Pastor David at 704-562-1019 or Christine at 704-839-3049