

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

October 2012

Joshua: Hope for God's People

Lesson #11: Joshua's Valedictorian Address

Joshua was concerned that the people would worship the idols of the land where they were living and not love God. How does one express love to God today? Matt 22:37

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: It seems like the book of Joshua teaches that God is righteous and unwilling to tolerate sin. Joshua was remarkably (radically?) obedient to God which could only have taken place by remaining close to God. Israel was a traveling nation, not a hardened army so Joshua kept depending on God to lead and fight their battles. Joshua's strength of character came out many times when he listened to God rather than man. He must have been listening to God because it seemed like he never followed the same tactics to win a battle. He was also remarkably humble to consistently give God the glory.

Read Joshua 23

1. Why did Joshua remind them of what God has done? Dt. 20:4
2. What three things would devotion to God require of them? Vv 6-7; 8-10; 11
3. What three motives did Joshua give them for remaining a separated and faithful people? Vv 3-4 (God's action); 5-10 (God's promises) Ex 34:10-17; 11-16 (God's warnings) Heb 12:6
4. How would Israel's future have been more secure with a culture that was completely purged of foreigners?
5. What were some of the dangers (appeals) that Israel faced from her spiritual enemy? 1 Jn 2:15-17

Read Joshua 24:14-27

6. How was Israel's relationship with God a result of grace?
7. How was their relationship conditional?
8. How does this compare to Christians' relationship to God today?
9. After all they've been through, why did Joshua give people a choice to serve God?
10. How did Joshua "document" their decision? Why?
11. How is that decision documented today?

APPLICATION

Joshua was "just a man" but he accomplished remarkable things for God and Israel. Given the complexities of today's world, what leadership principles of Joshua are still effective?

God will not allow His children to sin successfully.

Charles Spurgeon

As we read the Bible and see what God did in the past for those who trusted Him, it encourages us to trust Him today and face all our enemies with courage and confidence. The Presbyterian missionary leader A.T. Pierson used to say that "history is His story"; and this is true. From age to age, God may change His methods; but His character never changes, and He can be trusted.¹

... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Strong*. "Be" Commentary Series (146). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.