

Life's Lessons: Joshua

The importance of trusting and obeying God.

The Breaking Point . . .

Numbers 14:1-11 Then all the people began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. Their voices rose in a great chorus of complaint against Moses and Aaron. "We wish we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they wailed. "Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and little ones will be carried off as slaves! Let's get out of here and return to Egypt!" Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a leader and go back to Egypt!" Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the people of Israel. Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua and Caleb, tore their clothing. They said to the community of Israel, "The land we explored is a wonderful land! And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey, and he will give it to us! Do not rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don't be afraid of them!" But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites from above the Tabernacle. And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people reject me? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them?"

Joshua hangs on to God's promises!

Joshua 1:5b-9 I will not fail you or abandon you. "Be strong and courageous, for you will lead my people to possess all the land I swore to give their ancestors. Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do. Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed. I command you—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua seeks God . . .

Joshua 5:13-15 As Joshua approached the city of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man facing him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you friend or foe?" "Neither one," he replied. "I am commander of the LORD'S army." At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?" The commander of the LORD'S army replied, "Take off your sandals, for this is holy ground." And Joshua did as he was told.

Joshua's challenge . . .

Joshua 23:6-11 "So be strong! Be very careful to follow all the instructions written in the Book of the Law of Moses. Do not deviate from them in any way. ...But be faithful to the LORD your God as you have done until now. "For the LORD has driven out great and powerful nations for you, and no one has yet been able to defeat you. ... for the LORD your God fights for you, just as he has promised. So be very careful to love the LORD your God.

Joshua's warning . . .

Joshua 23:14-15 Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the LORD your God has come true. Not a single one has failed! But as surely as the LORD your God has given you the good things he promised, he (God) will also bring disaster on you if you disobey him.

God is trustworthy!

God truly is faithful! We can count on Him to be and do exactly what He says. The Bible assures us that the Lord is trustworthy, loving, and incapable of failure. (Psalm 37:5, Romans 5:8, Joshua 1:5). He is so committed to the best interest of His children that He will use any facet of His nature---Comforter, Discipliner, Savior --- to guide you safely through life's challenges.

"The Lord's lovingkindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

"I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"

Hebrews 13:5