

# God's Pep-talk to Joshua

## Joshua 1:1-9

### Introduction:

- A. We all need a pep-talk once in a while.
  - 1. Best efforts seem not enough.
  - 2. Past experience not encouraging.
  - 3. Present and future responsibility seems too big for a hundred like us.
- B. Joshua needed a pep-talk and God gave it to him.
  - 1. His past experience was not very encouraging.
    - a. Had been here before - eager to go - stopped by murmuring people.
    - b. Had seen his generation die in the wilderness.
    - c. Had seen the people get to Moses.
  - 2. His present situation was not encouraging.
    - a. Not as young as was when first entered the land as spy.
    - b. Did not have Moses for strength and counsel.
    - c. Leading a generation that did not share his memory of Egypt.
  - 3. His immediate future raised many questions.
    - a. Had enemy become stronger in 40 years?
    - b. How will the people act under pressure — given past history?
    - c. How long would the campaign take before final victory?
- C. God had a simple two-fold message for Joshua:

### Discussion:

#### I. “Moses My Servant Is Dead” (v. 1)

- A. Joshua knew that! — Had mourned 30 days.
- B. Joshua must accept that — could not live in the past!
  - 1. Little profit in second guessing: What if Moses had not sinned?
  - 2. Little profit in what dwelling on what might or could have been — if?
  - 3. Little accomplished by scape-goat hunting for past problems.
- C. Joshua must now “arise,” put the past behind him, and attend to the task at hand .
  - 1. Paul was able to “forget those things behind...” (Phil. 4:12).
  - 2. Paul was able put the “Mark” thing behind him (cf. Col. 4:10).

#### II. “Be Strong and of good courage” (v. 6).

- A. Enough to trust God's promise (vv. 3,4, 6).
- B. Enough to trust God's providential power and presence (v. 5,9).
  - 1. How powerful were Canaanites? — God was more.
  - 2. What if we run into more problems than we handle? (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13).
  - 3. “Have I not commanded you?” — “Do it and leave the results to Me?”
  - 4. Would God send them into battle and leave the stranded?
- C. Enough to do God's precepts (vv. 7-8).
  - 1. If Joshua would do this, God would take care of rest.
  - 2. Strong enough to:
    - a. “Do according to *all* the law” — “all that is written” (v. 7,8); cf. Jas 2:10; 1:25)
    - b. “Not turn from it to the right hand or to the left” (v. 7; cf. 2 John 9).
    - c. Keep law in his mouth (v. 8; cf. 2 Tim 4:1-4).
    - d. “Mediate in it day and night” (v. 8; cf. Psa. 1:1ff)

### Conclusion:

- A. Why does it take so much strength and courage to trust in God?
  - 1. Have forego immediate gratification for distant promise.
  - 2. Must act on power, presence and providence when not immediately apparent.
  - 3. Must keep doing things the Lord's way when other ways seem faster and more effective.
- B. Let us arise and do the task at hand — trusting God for the results.