

The Response Of Faith.

Joshua 1:10-18.

Sunday evening, August 23, 2009.

- I. “Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people...” Vs. 10
 - A. Joshua did not “confer with flesh and blood” Gal 1:16
 1. Joshua did not seek the counsel and advise of the tribal heads in a summit.
 2. Joshua did not, like Felix in Acts 24:25, defer the matter to a more convenient season.
 3. Joshua does not procrastinate, but he gives himself to an immediate performance of the charge laid on him by the Lord God Himself.
 - Procrastination betrays a lack of faith in the God who has called you.
 - Procrastination betrays a heart that does not desire the ways and the will of God.
 - Procrastination betrays a lack of concern for the divine glory and the Lord’s reputation in the earth.
 - B. Joshua responded with a ready obedience.
 1. Like the Psalmist Joshua could say: “I made haste, and delayed not, to keep Your commandments.” Psalm 119:60.
 2. Joshua accounted the One who had given Him such precious promises in Joshua 1:5, and who was vested with such power and sovereignty, worthy of being served with his whole heart and mind and soul and strength.
 3. Joshua, like the people in the days of Nehemiah, “had a mind to work.” Neh. 4:6.
 - C. How different is this obedience from the kind we are brought to under the pressure of the Lord’s heavy hand, or because of a conscience that is overburdened to the breaking point.
 1. Does the Lord have to wait long for your obedience?
 2. And yet do you expect Him to answer speedily when you cry out to Him?
 - D. How does your obedience compare to that of Joshua?

How does it compare to the directive given in the NT., “whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men.” Col. 3:23?
 - E. Joshua commanded the officers of the people.
 - A. Joshua commanded, but Joshua was not a Pope or a dictator.

The authority Joshua wielded was not his own; it was the Lord’s authority, invested in him, for the purpose of bringing Israel into her inheritance.
 - B. Understanding this authority enables a man both to be a servant and a leader.
 - C. Understanding this enabled Moses to be a man of authority and yet to be the meekest man upon the face of the earth. Numbers 12:3
 - D. Understanding this enabled the Lord Jesus to be meek and lowly in heart, Matt. 11:29, but at the same time to speak as one having authority, (yet not His own) John 7:16-18, and not as the scribes (who did speak of their own authority.) Matt 7:29.
 - E. Understanding this helps us not to seek to establish our own position or authority, but to be able to say with John the Baptist: “I must decrease, but He must increase.” John 3:30.

II. Prepare provisions... Vs. 11.

- A. The reference to provisions is to food; not the implements of war.
- B. The manna would stop when they crossed the Jordan.
- C. Here is the language of their union with their covenant God.
 - 1. The Lord will go with them and give them the victory and give them the land.
 - 2. But they have to go with their God too, and not as idle bystanders; they are given a part to do; they have to make adequate preparations.
 - 3. Interestingly they are not told to build rafts or boats to cross the Jordan river. This was part of what the Lord would do. He got them out of Egypt on dry land through the Red Sea, and He would get them into the promised land on dry ground as well; right through the Jordan.
- D. This is still the nature of our union with the Lord. The Lord never gives the victory to idle bystanders. Idle bystanders never inherit the promised land. Face the giants, holding fast to the promises of God. Do not face them in your own strength but hold the ground you are standing on, and lean on Him who has promised the victory.

III. Within three days you will cross over this Jordan... Vs. 11.

- A. Here is the language of faith; not maybe we will cross over; not we will attempt to cross over, but we will cross over.
- B. Not in their own strength, nor on their own authority, but on the word and the authority of the Lord their God who called them to their inheritance.
- C. And so the Lord does call you to your inheritance. Our greater Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ, calls you to your inheritance. He says to you that you will cross over the Jordan and inherit the land; not in your own strength, nor on your own authority, but on the Lord's strength and authority alone.

IV. You shall cross over ahead of your brethren. Vs. 14.

- A. The tribes of Gad and Reuben and half the tribe of Manasseh had already received their inheritance on the other side of the Jordan.
- B. Moses had given them their inheritance East of the Jordan with the provision that they would help their brethren conquer the land West of the Jordan. Numbers 32:20-28
- C. Now they will spearhead the armies of the Lord, and cross over the Jordan first as they inherit the land.
- D. Has the Lord given you rest in the promised land? Have you in an appreciable measure received your inheritance by the work of the Holy spirit? Then cross over this Jordan before your brethren who may be a bit timid and inexperienced at the process of spiritual warfare and receiving our inheritance.

V. All that you command us we will do... Vs. 16-18.

Joshua's resoluteness in following the Lord was blessed in that the Lord worked a similar resoluteness in the hearts of the people.