

Remnant Life Church  
December 31, 2017  
**Stand Firm at Your Post**  
Joshua 1:1-9

*If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offenses to rest. (Eccl 10:4)*

- Imagine that you are the second in command of a large organization or a great number of people
- You hear the following words, “The leader is gone – you are now in charge”
  - It happens in the business world – Chairman’s, CEO’s and Presidents retire or die and someone new ascends to the top
  - In the history of our nation, 8 sitting presidents have died in office
    - The first was William Henry Harrison in 1841 after having served in office for only 30 days making John Tyler president
    - The list includes Zachery Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, Warren Harding, FDR, and of course the last one in 1963, John F. Kennedy
    - Each of these deaths thrust someone unexpectedly into the position of leadership – unprepared, unnerved, perhaps, at least for a time, overwhelmed with what lay ahead
- And so imagine what Joshua must have felt and thought when God said these words to him, *Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. (Josh 1:2)*
  - What thoughts must be running through his mind?
  - Or with any of those men in our country’s history who found themselves in that place?
  - Joshua, I’m sure, is thinking many things
    - “Ok, well that would be... Wait... what?”
    - Moses who God chose to lead the nation out of Egypt after 430 years of captivity (Ex 12:40)
      - A nation of 2.4 to 2.5 million people
      - 600,000 men on foot (Ex 12:37)
      - The standard configuration of a population percentage that could fight (men age 20+) versus the total population was 1 in 4
      - $600,000 \times 4 = 2.4$  million (Egyptians who would have gone with them?)
    - Who stood defiantly before Pharaoh
    - Who God used to call down the 10 plagues
    - Who stretched out his hands and the water divided
    - Who spoke directly to God and received the 10 commandments written by God’s own Hand
  - Joshua, I’m sure, is thinking, “I’m replacing HIM?”

- Joshua had a post within the leadership of the nation of Israel and was involved and witnessed some of the more important and significant events
  - He was born in Egypt while the people were in captivity
  - It was Joshua, appointed by Moses, who led a hand-picked group of fighting men in their first military conflict after leaving Egypt where they defeated the Amalekites (Ex 17)
  - Joshua was with Moses when he went up Mt. Saini to receive the first set of stone tablets on which were written the 10 commandments (Ex 20)
  - Joshua was among the 12 spies sent to first scout out the promised land and one of only 2 (Caleb) who believed in God's promise (Numb 13-14)
  - It was Joshua who God selected to succeed Moses with a promise of invincibility during his lifetime (Josh 1:5)
  - It was Joshua who led the people across the Jordan river (parted waters) and defeated the great walled city of Jericho
  
- And yet Joshua had several options with how he would respond to the post God had just assigned him...
  - He could have said no and tried to run (how did that work out for Jonah?)
  - He could have tried to talk God out of it (that didn't get Moses very far)
  - He could have cried out in fear and hidden (God found Elijah in a cave without too much difficulty)
  - Or...he could simply obey and like Mary, the mother of Jesus would one day say to Gabriel, *"I am the Lord's servant, may your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38)
  
- How did God prepare Joshua for the assignment?
  - NOTE: God always prepares those who He calls!
  - He expects us to firmly stand and not abandon our posts
  
- **READ - Joshua 1:1-9**
  
- This morning I would like to offer you a strategy for the new year as we look at the strategy that God gave to Joshua -
  1. God immediately assures Joshua with a powerful promise
    - a. *No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.* (v 5)
    - b. Nothing of the external would change that promise
    - c. Even though appearances might have suggested something else
    - d. We have that same assurance, that same promise for our lives
  
  2. God then tells Joshua to do 2 things and He tells him 3 times
    - a. Be strong and courageous (vv 6, 7, 9)
    - b. When God repeats Himself, it is something important
    - c. Strong
      - i. You will only be as strong as you are prepared to be

- ii. Strength does not come to you when you encounter a challenge or a problem
    - iii. It is built and developed over time by what you do in preparation
      - 1. Prepare your faith
      - 2. Prepare your condition (heart, mind, attitude)
      - 3. Always be in a posture of preparation in your walk and relationship with the Lord
  - d. Courageous
    - i. Another word is bold, brave, fearless, stout, gutsy, valiant, undaunted
    - ii. You will only be as courageous as your...
      - 1. Armor
      - 2. Skill
      - 3. Weapons
      - 4. Knowledge of the enemy
      - 5. Mental readiness (caught off guard?)
3. Third, God tells Joshua to obey His Word (vv 7–8)
    - a. Do not deviate from it
    - b. The result is that you will be prosperous and successful
    - c. Not always in the way you think
    - d. How would we define that today?
      - i. Walking with God in the center of His will
  4. Finally, God tells Joshua not to be afraid or discouraged (v 9)
    - a. Why?
    - b. Because God will be with him wherever he goes
    - c. Fear and discouragement are two tools of satan that have grounded more Christians and caused more to leave their posts than any other

- Do you want to have a strong year in 2018?
- Follow the path that God laid out for Joshua
- This does not mean that you will never face difficulties, pain, or even setbacks but...

1. Know that God will always be with you
2. Be strong and courageous
3. Obey His Word
4. Do not be afraid or discouraged

- Why can we go through life unafraid? See #1
- Whatever assignment God has for you in 2018 – stand firm at your post!