



Sermon Series Notes



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

“Lessons From An Old Giant Killer” (Joshua 13-14)

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13:1 Joshua died at age 110 (Joshua 24:29); Scholars believe he was about the same age as his friend in the faith, Caleb was. That means he would have been around 40 years old when he and Caleb were chosen by Moses, along with ten others, to go and spy out the Promised Land (See Numbers 13:1-8, 26-32; 14:1-4). Only Joshua & Caleb had the faith to face the giants in the Promised Land. But the majority overruled them, and they spent forty years wandering in the wilderness with a bunch of faithless, grumbling, rebellious people.

Some forty years later Joshua is commissioned to succeed Moses. Joshua is a type of Jesus Christ. Moses represented the Law, and the Law could never lead us into the Land of Promise. Joshua is the OT name for Jesus.

Joshua leads Israel across the Jordan river, and by faith against walled cities and powerful armies (See Joshua 10:40a, 41-42; 11:23; 12:7-8).

So after seeing victory after victory for probably over forty years, the Lord says to Joshua (Read again Joshua 13:1).

Now, I know I’m not “very old,” unless you’re of course “very young.” The very young think I’m very old. That would mean they think some of you are “ancient!”

I’ve seen a lot of victories from the Lord for now almost 40 years (saved at 19, now 58). I’ve also seen people fall, and fail, just like Joshua did. These memories make this particular study very personal for me. I feel like Joshua must have felt in regard to so much left to possess, so much left to conquer. And the challenge is to not let this discourage me, but instead to renew my faith, ignite my zeal, take on a fresh battle against the enemy.

How did Joshua feel when the Lord said this to him? Maybe he wasn’t encouraged but rather discouraged. Maybe his faith wasn’t renewed. Perhaps he didn’t feel like engaging

the enemy. If this was the case, something soon happens that I am certain bolstered him to continue on. What was it? See Joshua 14:6-15; 15:13; 21:11; Numbers 13:32b-33; Gen.6:4.

Caleb, still the man of faith he was 45 years earlier. No, a man of even greater faith than 45 years earlier! Despite his age, he's itching to go kill some giants!

This was an easy message to attach a title to: "Lessons From An Old Giant Killer."

The Lessons

- Perseverance

- 45 years!

- Heb.10:36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

- I'll be 64 yrs. old 45 years after my conversion; What does God have for me down the road?

- Deut.1: 35 "Not a man of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your forefathers, 36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly."

- Patience

- Both Joshua and Caleb had to endure a whole generation of faithless people. The people during the wilderness wanderings were constant complainers, repeatedly rebellious. See I Cor.10:1-13. Caleb and Joshua repeatedly resisted the temptation to follow the crowd into these sins. And they also repeatedly resisted the temptation to allow a bitter attitude to take root toward them. They had both witnessed the humility of Moses in praying for this rebellious bunch year after year after year, and they became like him. They also saw Moses fail when he became angry with the people and struck the rock. That cost him the Promised Land, and Joshua & Caleb never forgot it.

- Can you imagine being held back from greater blessings from God and it not being your fault, but the fault of your brothers and sisters in the Lord? I have to at times guard against an attitude toward faithless people at CC St. Pete. We could be so much further along if people would give, get involved, etc. etc. Last night I spoke at the Mentoring Appreciation Dinner, and while I was so thankful for all the volunteers in this ministry, I also wondered why more people aren't involved, especially in a church our size. I could cop an attitude, but what good would copping an attitude do? Not only would it not change faithless people, it would ruin me!

- Submission

- Caleb could have set out and started his own movement 45 years earlier, "Take The Promised Land" Church. But not only did he not do that, he remained submitted, first to Moses, then to Joshua. When Joshua was commissioned to lead the people after Moses died, Caleb could have resented it.

- See I Peter 2:13-21

- Zeal

- Fervor can easily be lost over time. Here Caleb is, 85 years old, and he is itching to get out and fight some giants! This is what we saw in him 45 years earlier.

- Romans 12:11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

- II Kings 13:14-19; I Cor.9:24-27

- Faith

- The eagle has eight times as many visual cells per cubic centimeter than a human. This translates into some pretty astounding capabilities. Flying at 600 feet elevation, an eagle can spot an object the size of a dime moving through six inch grass. It can see three inch fish jumping in a lake three miles away. It sees what others miss. People with faith are like that.

- II Cor.4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but what is unseen...

- See II Kings 6:8-17

- Courage

- Russian novelist & historian Alexander Solzhenitsyn said, "Must one point out that from ancient times a decline in courage has been considered the beginning of the end."

CONCLUSION

- Father, make us into the kind of men and women that have the character & faith that Joshua and Caleb had, in Jesus' name, Amen.