

JourneyMate Ministries

Many have asked for the sermon notes on a regular basis, so here is this past Sundays. I reported this Sunday as well that in the month of June there were 7 decisions for Jesus, 1 rededication, and a healing that took place. WOW! Thank you for your prayer support. My prayer for you would be that you are blessed as you read this sermon and watch the video's. God certainly came and moved in our service this past Sunday. If you do not have a church home please consider visiting us in Bloomsburg. Have a great day in the Lord! - Pastor Tom

<http://youtu.be/1R22SugrR2o> Bring The Rain

<http://youtu.be/zOJFPa9wLKw> Lord I Offer My Life to You

<http://youtu.be/9Dca0P7w9ZQ> Give me Jesus

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/10696/wisdom-welcome> - Prayer Video

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/1463/guide-the> The Guide

WISDOM - WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE DECISIONS

The Bible says in Proverbs 4:6-7, "Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

<http://www.sermonspice.com/product/1463/guide-the> The Guide

Wisdom as defined Biblically by Rick Warren- 'The God given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by making wise decisions and counseling others with sound advise, all in accordance with God's will.

Wisdom defined by both Webster and the world -

The quality of being wise ; knowledge , and the capacity to make due use of it ; knowledge of the best ends and the best means ; discernment and judgment ; discretion ; sagacity ; skill ; dexterity .(NO MENTION OF ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S WILL) There seems to be a worldly wisdom, and a Godly wisdom. Let's see if the Bible is still relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago..

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you this, we do not use words of human wisdom. We speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths.'

The key verse for this message today is Joshua 1:8 'This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.' Ahh.... success. How do you define success? What are you called to? Let's take a look at the life of Joshua.

Like Timothy of the New Testament, who was filling the Apostle Paul's shoes, we see Joshua stepping into the position Moses had as leader of the Israelites. Wow! What an undertaking! What responsibility! You see at first Joshua was just another of the million Jewish slaves released by Pharaoh. But Moses noticed him, went to him, and asked him to be on his leadership team because he was efficient, loyal, and brave. After being with Moses for a while Moses makes Joshua his personal assistant. Joshua is moving right along and must feel good about all of this. He was learning leadership values from Moses, knew he was being groomed for further work in leading the people, but was not sure if he could take Moses place. But then Moses died and God put him in charge of the Israelite Nation. Remember Joshua was present when Moses parted the Red Sea, Joshua worshipped the same God as Moses who DID HAVE the power to push back the Red Sea, but he didn't have Moses' faith or Moses ability, I wonder if he found himself praying and in his praying he was criticizing himself. Have you ever prayed like this? *****WHAT JOSHUA AND WE NEED IS TO BE CONFIDENT IN THE THINGS OF GOD.** Joshua 1:6-7 ' "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.'

I can't help but wonder what he said because of how he felt. 'I'm not as great as Moses, I don't have the faith of Moses.' His thoughts, fueled by his emotions/feelings, continue to spiral down, 'I can't do it, there is no way I can lead Israel as Moses did.' Joshua was afraid of what the future was holding. He had the training, believed in God, was chosen for a specific task, yet heard the whispers of doubt because Moses had seen God, was empowered by God and he, AND EVERYONE ELSE knew it, actually Joshua had seen quite a bit, like when Moses came down from the mountain Moses face shined from being in the presence of the Lord and many miraculous things were done over time. Joshua however, was yet to have a personal encounter with God, but he was about to. Have you ever seen God at work from a distance and new it was God? Have you had a personal encounter with God? I wonder what that would look like. Joshua was about to move from intellect to wisdom. There is a difference.

Have you ever been in a situation or place in life where it seems that there is no hope, that all there are are more problems and the choices are merely double binds, no way out? Joshua was called by God to lead the people, he knew how intellectually, but he did not feel empowered as he had seen Moses. The Israelites had been wandering 40 years now and they needed a home, the old leadership was dead, a new generation had to step up to the plate and now Israel had to cross the Jordan River, and it was at flood stage. Joshua was no dummy, he was a General of the Israelite Army, he had natural ability to organize, strategize, mobilize... and he was operating within in his own ability, which was great. This was about to change. As Joshua looks at the swollen banks of the Jordan I can almost hear him say, 'This is impossible for me, I don't have the faith of Moses.' But God wanted His people to make it to the promised land, and chose to raise up the next generation to full fill His promise with Joshua leading them. POINT TO LEARN: When we operate on our own power we have limitations, but nothing is impossible with God.

And then a cool thing happens. Joshua was present before the Lord, like Moses, and God spoke to him, and Joshua knew it was God. And in Joshua 1:2 God says to Joshua "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them." God gave Joshua a command, not a request, and Joshua needs to make a decision. To serve a Holy God, or himself. Will Joshua continue to believe and operate in his own known abilities, or take a step of faith and trust in what God had just commanded him to do? Have you ever been at this crossroad? Learning Point: A result of a lack of wisdom is fear during times of decision making.

This where it all comes together for Joshua. A decision needs to be made. Joshua was given leadership of the 12 Tribes, a million chosen people who had on many occasions proved in the wilderness that they could be argumentative, stubborn and arrogant. Joshua, like us, would probably rather minister to people who were more like us, thought like us, and wanted to do things the way we want to do things. Joshua was a General in the Israelite Army, he came with knowing to be successful in battle people have to fight as a unit, under one commander/leader. HERE IS A MAIN POINT ABOUT JOSHUA'S THOUGHT PROCESS: *But as a religious leader, he knew Israel had followed Moses because he was a miracle worker, but Joshua had not performed any miracles ... not yet anyway. Joshua is praying, thinking and asking God 'How can I do this? QUESTION: Like Joshua, have you ever questioned your salvation, or had doubts that God was really with you? Hmmm.....

And God speaks again to Joshua, and to us, by reminding him of the scriptures He gave Moses. God brings to mind Exodus 24:4 'Follow My words of instruction that Moses wrote down.' HERE IT IS...This is where intellect becomes

wisdom. Joshua was well versed in the the Word of God. Joshua, as well as us as Christians, want to obey God's scriptures exactly so that he and we could receive God's blessing on our lives. In other words, wisdom comes from the scriptures, wisdom from God will overpower our fears and hindrances. *** THIS IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!!! REMEMBER THIS: THE SECRET JOSHUA NEEDED, AND WE NEED, IS FOUND IN JOSHUA 1:8 'THIS BOOK OF THE LAW SHALL NOT DEPART FROM YOUR MOUTH, 'BUT YOU SHALL MEDITATE IN IT DAY AND NIGHT, THAT YOU MAY OBSERVE TO DO ACCORDING TO ALL THAT IS WRITTEN IN IT.FOR THEN YOU WILL MAKE YOUR WAY PROSPEROUS, AND THEN YOU WILL HAVE GOOD SUCCESS.' ** We, like Joshua, have intellect, but we can receive wisdom, it's a choice, and if we do....it's the advantage we need over our enemies and all things not of God. LESSON:The scriptures reveal God's formula to successfully conquer the Promised land, both for Joshua and for us. This equates to freedom of some sort in what holds us back from being all that God intended for us to be.

And now, with his faith renewed through the wisdom of scripture, Joshua makes his decision about crossing a flood stage, angry swollen Jordan River. In Joshua 1:11 we find Joshua saying ' "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'" What is your promised land? Where are you supposed to be, or be doing? Do you need wisdom to full fill the calling on your life, or to even know it? Has fear and doubt kept us in check? BIG LESSON: WHEN WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW SCRIPTURE, SCRIPTURE WILL BE FULL FILLED IN OUR LIVES. JOSHUA 4:14 'THAT DAY THE LORD EXALTED JOSHUA IN THE SIGHT OF ALL ISRAEL; AND THEY REVERED HIM ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE, JUST AS THEY HAD REVERED MOSES.'

Conclusion: What we can learn from the Book of Joshua in regards to what success is is this, plan to do successful things each day by reading and meditating on scripture. God's first task with Joshua and with us is to get us thinking straight, to gain wisdom. This is why God always chooses to focus on our thinking. Proverbs 27:19 says 'As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.' If what we think is who we are, what are we manifesting to others? AS A RESULT OF JOSHUA'S FAITHFULLNESS GOD HAS JOSHUA GO TO JERICHO WITH SPECIFIC ORDERS. GOD CONTINUED TO BUILD ON JOSHUA'S FAITHFULLNESS IN A WAY HE COULD RECOGNIZE AS A GENERAL OF THE ISRALITE ARMY. JOSHUA 5:13-15 ' Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence,

and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.' // LESSON FOR US IS WE NEED TO BE FAITHFULL AND OBEDIENT TO GOD'S CALLING ON OUR LIVE'S AND THIS REQUIRES WISDOM!

As we grow in wisdom we can be assured of this promise found in Colossians 3:23-24 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.' Where is your focus? Like the old Joshua, who knew about God/saw God work yet had doubt and fear, or like the new Joshua who gained wisdom through the scriptures which built his faith and overcame his fears and doubts? If you have not yet met Jesus and begun a relationship with Him, the scriptures will not make a lot of sense to you. If you want to gain wisdom, gain Jesus. Now would be the time. Ask him to become Lord and Savior of your life, recognizing you have have tried and worked hard, believing in yourself , others, or something other than God, and that is wrong and that the Bible calls that Idol worship, which is sin. For the Christian, like Joshua, you might be at a crossroads about a decision that you believe that God has for you to do. Take the paper in front of you, write down 1st what it is you believe God has for you to do, 2nd what the fear is that holds you back from doing it. Fold it, and lift it up, let's pray for wisdom.

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