

A New Beginning

Joshua 1:1-6

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Notes for sermon “A New Beginning”.

Introduction

- A. Good to come and worship God on 1st Sunday of a New Year.
- B. It’s always good to worship God but there is something special about the beginning of a New Year.
 - 1. A time of reflection, out with old and in with the new
 - 2. To see where we have been and what we have accomplished.
 - 3. Time of inventory
 - 4. Successes and failures
 - 5. Time for resolutions to improve ourselves
 - a. Physical – exercise, diet, etc.
 - b. Spiritual – study more, growth, more commitment, etc.
- C. At the beginning of the New Year we have a great opportunity, a new beginning.

I. Like the new beginning of the Israelites in Joshua 1.

- A. They had come a long way from their days in Egypt.
- B. God, through Moses, had lead them from their bondage in Egypt, across the Jordan River to the edge of the promise land.
- C. God had promised them the land but they wanted to send in spies to check it out. Ten of the twelve spies that were sent in reported back that they couldn’t take the land because there were giants.
- D. Only Joshua and Caleb had enough faith in God to say they could.
- E. Because of their unbelief God said that they would not enter the promise land. They were sentenced to wander in the wilderness for forty years until everyone of that generation died, except Joshua and Caleb.
- F. Now they were ready, once again, to enter the promise land. They had a great opportunity, a new beginning.

II. God’s New Leader.

- A. Moses, who had been their great leader for so many years, had died and God Himself buried him in the plains of Moab.

- B. Now God had to choose a new leader for His people. The man God chose for the job was Joshua.
- C. Joshua was a man of great faith. He had been Moses' assistant for many years. He was also one of the two spies, out of twelve, that 40 years earlier had stated, that even though there were giants in the land, that they could take land with the help of God.
- D. Joshua would now replace Moses as the leader of God's people.

III. God's Promises

- A. God made promises to the people under the leadership of Moses. Now, God would renew those promises to the people under the leadership of Joshua.
- B. It was not that God had failed to keep His promises but because of the unbelief of the people in God.
- C. Let's look at some of those promises.
 - 1. God promised them land.
 - a. Joshua 1:2-3 "...arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them-the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you..."
 - 2. God promised deliverance from their enemies.
 - a. Joshua 1:5a "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life..."
 - 3. God promised to always be with them.
 - a. Joshua 1:5b "I will not leave you nor forsake you."
 - 4. God promised them prosperity and success.
 - a. Joshua 1:8b "...then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

IV. God's Conditions

- A. Along with the promises that God made He also set forth certain conditions that would have to be met before they would be fulfilled.
- B. A mistake that people often make is thinking that just because God makes a promise to give them something that there is nothing they have to do in order to receive it.
 - 1. For example, notice what God said concerning the city of Jericho.
 - a. Joshua 6:2 "And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! ***I have given Jericho into your hand***, its king, and the mighty

men of valor”

- b. Was Israel already in possession of the city of Jericho? No!
 - c. But with God, when He makes a promise, it is the same as done as far as His part is concerned. But there is also a part that man must do in order for the promise to be fulfilled.
 - d. What did the Israelites have to **do** before they could possess the city of Jericho?
 - e. They had to march around the city once each day for six days. On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times. Then when the priest blew the trumpets the people shouted and the walls would fall down.
 - f. Joshua 6:20 “So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”
 - g. When did they possess the city? Only when they had **done everything** that God had commanded! Not any time before!
- C. Let’s go back to Joshua 1 and again look at the promises that God made to Joshua and the people of Israel. Then notice the **conditions** that God placed upon them in order to receive those promises.
- 1. Promises that God made.
 - a. To give them land
 - b. To fight their enemies
 - c. To always be with them
 - d. Make them prosperous and successful
 - 2. Conditions that God made.
 - a. Joshua 1:7-8 “Only be **strong and very courageous**, that you may **observe to do according to all the law** which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left**, that you may prosper wherever you go. 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.”
- D. Only when Joshua and the people fully obeyed the commands or conditions of God did they receive the promises that God had made.
- 1. Notice the conditions that God gave.

- a. Strong and very courageous
 - b. Observe to do according to all the law
 - c. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left
 - d. Shall not depart from your mouth
 - e. Meditate in it day and night
 - f. Observe to do according to all that is written in it
2. Now look at the last part of verse 8. After God stated the conditions that must be met He said, “For **then** you will make your way prosperous, and **then** you will have good success.”
- a. When would they be prosperous? When would they be successful? Only when they obeyed the conditions set forth by God!

Conclusion: How does this apply to us today?

A. God Needs Leaders and Workers

1. The slogan for the Marines is, “Looking for a few good men”. God is also looking for a “few good men and women” to serve in His army.
2. Great leaders and followers of God such as Moses and Joshua were men of great humility, honesty, trustworthiness and faith. When God had a job that needed to be done He chose people such as this to carry it out.
3. What about us? Are we the type of person that God would call upon to carry out a work for Him? As Christians we should be. Ours lives should be that of a faithful servant. “Here am I, send me!”

B. God’s Promises to Us

1. God made promises to Joshua and the people of Israel.
2. God has also made promises to us, today. Such as,
 - a. Forgiveness of Sins
 - b. Eternal Life
3. We can rest assured that when God makes a promise He will carry it out.

C. God’s Conditions for Us

1. As we have just seen, God made several promises to Joshua and the people of Israel.
2. But along with those promises God placed conditions upon them receiving those promises.

3. God has also placed conditions upon the promises He has made to us.
 4. What are the conditions that God has set forth for us to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life?
 - a. Hear the Word of God. (Rom.10:17)
 - b. Believe (Acts 16:31)
 - c. Repent (Acts 17:30)
 - d. Confess (Matt. 10:32)
 - e. Be baptized (Mark 16:16)
 - f. We must remain faithful to God throughout our lives. (Rev. 2:10)
 5. When, and only when all the conditions have been met will we receive the promises of forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
- D. This morning we need to be like the Israelites in Joshua 1.
1. They had made mistakes. But instead of looking back they were looking ahead to a great opportunity, a new beginning.
 2. We have also made mistakes. And instead of looking back we must also look ahead to the great opportunity, the new beginning that is before us.
 3. Today with the beginning of a New Year comes the great opportunity of, **A New Beginning!**
 4. Will you come in obedience to the commands of God?