

WordFeast - an inspiring and impactful Bible Study hour. @ **Heritage of God Church**

@The Loft, South Pointe Community Centre.11520, Ellerslie Road SW. Edmonton. 7pm on Thursdays.

Topic: Principles for Winning in Life – 12 Lessons from the life and ministry of Joshua.

Introduction

Winning in life is the desire of everyone, no matter who they are, or whatever their work of life - be it at home, in the marketplace or on the pulpit. It is also the plan of God for every believer. Every wise man or woman would therefore be looking into the word of God every time, to locate every tool needed to win over every of life's challenges.

The aim of this study is to highlight the silent and obvious lessons we can learn from the life and ministry of Joshua, that helped him live a victorious life as he went about his mission of leading the children of Israel to possess their promised land. We will also study the circumstances that preceded his choice as the replacement for Moses, and learn from few areas where he did not pay adequate attention. Joshua's mission was not just religious, but it involved economic, industrial and political campaigns. The lessons we learn here, if applied, will help everyone to succeed in every area of life. Enjoy it!

Who is Joshua?

Josh. 1:1-9

Joshua, came in the limelight after Moses died. Considering the strength and attributes of Moses, it is a challenge to fit Moses's shoes. But what qualified Joshua? And what happened that necessitated Moses to give space to Joshua at that time? Though he was not an elder, Joshua was the one there when God spoke with Moses in the clouds!

- Deut. 34:1-12 (see verse 9), Ex. 24:12-18, Ex. 33:11
- Num. 27:12-17, 18-23. - here is the account of events towards the end of Moses's ministry.

1.) Lay a solid foundation for your future

Discuss the following three main points:

- Personal development – Know God and get expertise in your area of endeavor
- Service. Num. 27:18 – service opened the door for Moses to lay his hand on Joshua.
- Character – imagine how character flaw made Moses miss the promised land (as powerful as he was)!

More on Moses...

Briefly highlight what God said about Moses: Num. 11:4-6, 10-15, 16-17; Num. 12:3-8; Num. 14:11-20; Num. 15:23-25; Num. 20:1-4, 7-12; Ex. 32:19-20.

- An intercessor, a great leader, a man with the capacity of over 70people,
- but crushed, due to the weakness of sudden anger! He lost his temper and lost the promised land!

So, check your foundation and be sure you are built well enough to last.

2.) Understand the seasons and embrace your time. *Josh. 1:1-2*

Everyone that did great thing for God understood when their time for exploits had come!

- It gives you a sense of command and commissioning with a backing of confidence; and it makes you ready to give all it takes to pay all the price. God had to call Joshua to this realization!
- Receive grace to understand when the tomorrow you were waiting for has come in the NOW!

3.) Arise courageously. *Josh. 1:6-11*

- **Courage** = moving forward into your inheritance, just because God said it.

4.) Search out (spy) the land first... *Josh. 2:1-3, Num. 13:1-3, 17-20*

Any idea and direction God lays on your heart is do-able, but begin by conducting adequate research. This is relevant in every field of life! Do your homework. Spend time to prepare! Get as much information as possible, so you will make informed decision - this is the first action on your part after you have received clarity on it from God

5.) Circumcise your heart and ensure that your entire team is. *Josh. 5:1-9*

Joshua needed to ensure that all those that were born while in the wilderness were circumcised.

Discuss what this concept of circumcision means for the believer. Heb. 9:15, Heb. 10:19-23.

- Being born again translate you into the commonwealth of Israel.
- Also, you need to circumcise your heart to know that you have the right, with divine backing to win in every area of life (family, marketplace or ministry). Go into your field of endeavor with victory in mind.

6.) Surrender the complete leadership of your campaign to God. *Josh. 5:13-15*

- As strong and as courageous as you may be; and upon all your faith, you must be ready to completely surrender to the leadership of the Lord by His Spirit.
- As courageous as Joshua was, he was wise and humble enough to align himself behind the angel of God!

7.) Decide to see things with God's eyes and never entertain fear. *Josh. 6:1-2; 2Cor. 5:7.*

- 'NOW Jericho was securely locked, because of the children of Israel..., But the Lord said to Joshua, I have given you Jericho...' God saw that Jericho was locked, but he drew the attention of Joshua to opportunity!

- anytime you experience opposition; just realize that the reason is because the enemy is scared of you!
- Never ever get discouraged, hopeless, fearful, or doubtful. Never focus on the locked gates.
- See as God see. See that the locked door you currently obviously see, is only a façade! Not a limitation!
- 'See' only the word that God has given you about the vision/goal; and go for the Gold! You Win, always!
- The land before you is flowing with milk and honey; you are able to go in to possess it. Amen.
- Num. 14:6-9, 2Kgs. 6:15-17, 1Jn. 4:4

8.) Receive clear strategy from God before making any move. *Josh. 6:1-5 (NLT)*

“Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. But the Lord said to Joshua, “I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram’s horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. **When** you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams’ horns, **have all the people shout** as loud as they can. **Then** the walls of the town will collapse, **and** the people can charge straight into the town.””

Ref *Eccl 10:15, Pr. 3:5-7*

Be precise in your perception. Take time to get your strategy clearly. Examples of David: ***2Sam. 5:17-25***

9.) Carry out divine leading by faith

- a) carry out the instruction in total obedience to God
- b) respond promptly to the word and the strategy. ***Josh 6: 6, 12***
- c) be conscious of the presence of God with you as you go about implementing the idea He gave you.
- e) You Must **SHOUT!** Enter the land with heavenly armor, and declare your victory always!

10.) Watch out for divine warnings and cautions. *Josh. 6:17-19*

- a) Keep yourself from the accursed things, ***by all means*** (verse 18). (ref. 1 Thess. 5:22)
- If Winning will be your lifestyle, complete obedience to righteousness must be your only watchword!
- Business without conscience is ungodly! Godliness with contentment is great gain! ***1Tim. 6:6***

'Grace of God has appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, ***in this present world!*** (***Titus. 2:11-12***)

b) *Josh. 6:19*

- All the silver & gold and all the vessels of brass shall come into the treasury of the Lord. ***Hag. 2:8***
- everything that you own in life belongs to God! But Israel violated the instructions. ***Josh. 7:1***
 - Israel acted unfaithful to God’s instruction - Achan had stolen some of the things dedicated to God!
 - Notice that all the coming wealth and glory is for the kingdom of our God and for His glory.

11.) Plan for a Winning life begin today!

- a time will come when you will be old! *Josh. 13:1, Josh. 23:1-2.*
- plan early for a fulfilled and maximized life.
- look ahead of your life for a short-term goal of the next 2years. Where would you be by 2020?
- plan today with that future goal in every area of your life) in mind, and determine what each week going forward must be like! Plan well ahead and walk towards your declared goal.

12.) Have the mindset of establishing a legacy for the next generation. *Judges 2:7-11*

- you can only be said to have won in life, if the records after you were gone from this earth shows generations after you are winning!
- Determine to leave a legacy behind in your children and grandchildren.
- Determine to carry out the vision God has given you in such a way that it will outlive you! Your business.
- Plan to raise men to carry out the work you are currently doing for God.
- Joshua grew in the hands of Moses. After the elders that were alive with Joshua left, Israel went way from God!

Prayer:

1. Commit every gate before you to the Lord now. Banish every fear of the enemy from you.
2. Receive strategic instruction from the Lord on how to confront every locked gate.
3. Receive understanding of the voice and ways of God
4. Command every secured gate before you to open, in Jesus name. Amen.
5. Make a fresh commitment to serve God with all He will place in your hands.
6. Renew your commitment to walk in ways pleasing to God all the remaining days of your life.
7. Receive wisdom from God on how to plan and spend the rest of your life well. Receive wisdom on how to go about any re-training you might need, and every change that must take place in your life.
8. Receive clear understanding from God on how to navigate your next steps in life, as you right every wrong of yesteryears! Let the blood of Jesus cover for every wrong in Jesus name.
9. Receive clarity in planning for your legacy! What changes must happen now, in view of the legacy you desire to leave behind after you are gone from this earth.
10. Pray all manner of prayer, and receive refreshing in the presence of God. Amen.