

Joshua – Lesson 42: Success – Success in God's eyes (Availability)

Joshua 20:7-9

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 41 (Success in God's eyes)

1. According to Joshua 20:3, what two conditions of murder will support fleeing to a city of refuge?
Answer: 1. Unaware, and 2. Unwittingly.

2. According to Exodus 21:12, what is the penalty for killing another person?
Answer: Death.

3. What example of accidental death is used in Deuteronomy 19:5?
Answer: the (axe) head slippeth from the helve, and lighteth upon his neighbour, that he die.

4. According to Joshua 20:6, when can one return home in safety?
Answer: One must remain 'until the death of the high priest'.

5. Complete the following scripture:
Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

True / False

True God distinguishes between accidental and intentional murder. (DEUT 19)

False God considers a person's position. (ROM 2:11)

True The elders of a refuge city may deny asylum. (JOS 20:4)

True The refuge city will provide for the person seeking refuge. (JOS 20:4)

Lesson 42: Success in God's eyes (availability, responsibility and accountability)

"Bulldozers move mountains; ideas show where the bulldozers should go to work." — Peter Drucker
(Managing oneself – Harvard Business Review)

- Bulldozers: Incredible tools with amazing power – Enough to move massive amounts of earth (mountains)
- Will only work where placed - where applied.

Matthew 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.**

- God makes Himself available to the believer, to the point where, if our desires are in God's will, our faith, like a bulldozer, is capable to move mountains!

All are given availability through God, the responsibility to act wisely, and accountability for their decisions.

Joshua 20:7-9

(7) And they appointed Kedesh in Galilee in mount Naphtali, and Shechem in mount Ephraim, and Kirjatharba, which *is* Hebron, in the mountain of Judah.

(8) And on the other side Jordan by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness upon the plain out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan out of the tribe of Manasseh.

(9) These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them, that whosoever killeth *any* person at unawares might flee thither, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, until he stood before the congregation.

Availability

The cities of refuge were thoughtfully assigned by God for one purpose – Accessibility.

- Each city was approximately a one day journey from anywhere in the Promised Land.
- God intended to make safety available to anyone (who is eligible) from anywhere.

Romans 10:8-9 – Salvation available to all

(8) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

(9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

The word is close to anyone / everyone – just one beat away from being in someone’s heart!

- If faith in Christ is in your heart – Confess Jesus Christ with your mouth (make it a public declaration)
- You will be saved! Not a temporary condition, but your eternity is secure.
- As with the cities being a day away, salvation is just a prayer away – Coming to Christ in humility and repentance will bring the sinner into God’s saving grace.

The cities of refuge are for all, not just the Jewish, but for the stranger as well.

Many cultures only consider its citizens when determining protection and justice. However, God (not a respecter of persons ROM 2:11), provides for all who submit.

Acts 10:34-35 – Peter expounds on the universal opportunity toward humanity

(34) Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

- After seeing the Gentiles accepted by the Holy Spirit, Peter realizes the scope of God’s promise and Christ’s sacrifice: For all humanity (not just the children of Israel), that Christ is not merely King of the Jews, but King of all.

(35) But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

- Regardless of your family, heritage, religious background, nationality, etc. – You can be saved.
- Salvation is available to all

Responsibility

The children of Israel had a responsibility to ensure the six cities of refuge were easy to find, not hidden or difficult to approach.

Deuteronomy 19:2-3 – Go directs the placement and infrastructure

(2) Thou shalt separate three cities for thee in the midst of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.

- These three cities are west of the Jordan River in the inheritance (Kedesh, Shechem, and Hebron)

(3) Thou shalt prepare thee a way, and divide the coasts of thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee to inherit, into three parts, that every slayer may flee thither.

- The children of Israel were required to not only dedicate cities of refuge, but ensure there were clear and direct accesses:
 - o Routes established (actual 'roads' were not yet introduced) to include signs at crossroads that identified the route as 'Refuge'.
 - o Natural obstacles overcome (bridges over rivers and creeks)
 - o The Jewish leadership (rabbis and elders) were responsible to direct (and fund) the construction to ensure the shortest, most direct way to safety was provided.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

The believer has a similar responsibility – To aid others in finding the most direct path to Christ, that the path is clear and accessible:

- Each believer should be a living 'signpost' pointing the way to Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

- o Satan, like the avenger, is actively seeking to 'kill' humanity, bringing all into eternal darkness

Accountability

The one who killed by accident has two options: Flee and live, stay and die.

There is no other provision offered, no opportunity to 'plead your case' to the victim's family, the town leadership, or reason with the avenger of blood (they knew it was up to you to act, or die).

1 John 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

- Accountability to humanity for salvation is the same: Either accept Christ and live, or refuse and die

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

- o Jesus makes it clear, there is only one path to God; it is through His Son, whom He sent for the purpose of reconciling humanity to the Father and obtaining His life.

Many challenge the gift of God, claiming that if God wanted man in heaven, He would simply make it a reality (we would not be here in this mess).

The believer remains in the world for one of two actions that cannot be done in heaven

- Sin (there will be no sin in heaven)
- Bringing others to Christ (that time will be past once all are in heaven)

For which do you think God keeps the believer in the world?

Acts 1:8 **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Being a success in God's eyes – Fulfilling your purpose here on earth (to the best of your ability)

Next Lesson: Joshua – Staying on the path of success

Joshua – Lesson 42: Success – Success in God’s eyes (availability)

Study Questions

1. According to Joshua 20:7-8, what six cities were named as ‘cities of refuge’?

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

2. According to Matthew 17:20, what is the faith of a believer capable of?

3. According to Deuteronomy 19:3, how did God ensure a ‘city of refuge’ could be reached?

4. According to 1 John 5:12, how is mankind held accountable for belief in Christ?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt _____ with thy _____ the Lord Jesus,
and shalt believe in thine _____ that God hath _____ him from the
_____, thou shalt be saved.

True / False

T F A city of refuge is only for the children of Israel.

T F All six cities of refuge are west of the Jordan River.

T F A murderer may stay in their home town to plead their case and be heard.

T F The believer’s primary role is to witness.