

Joshua – Lesson 44: Stay On The Path Of Success - Remember Joshua 23

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 43 (Success in God's eyes)

1. According to Joshua 21:41, how many Levitical cities were established?
Answer: 48.
2. According to Galatians 6:2, what fulfils the law of Christ?
Answer: Bear ye one another's burdens.
3. According to Joshua 21:44, who remained to stand against the children of Israel?
Answer: No man.
4. According to Joshua 22:10, why were the children of Israel angry with Reuben, Gad and Manasseh?
Answer: They had appeared to have built an alter contrary to the law.
5. Complete the following scripture:

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

True / False

True God delivered all that He promised in the inheritance to the children of Israel. (JOS 21:45)

True To be incorruptible, immortal, is a promise of God to the believer. (1COR 15:53)

True The children of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh were reminded – God first. (JOS 22:5)

True The believer is to forgive others as God forgave the believer. (MATT 6:12)

Lesson 44: Stay On The Path Of Success (Remember)

"When you repeat a mistake, it is not a mistake anymore. It is a decision." — Paulo Coelho (Lyricist/novelist)

- Bad behavior is often viewed as incidental, not intentional – an accident or slip-up.
- Repeated bad behavior is no mere coincidence – It is a decision.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

Success can induce a type of complacency (or relaxing our guard) that opens the door to error.

The Bible has many examples of faithful servants who strayed and erred:

- Abraham: Lying about his wife (claiming her as his sister)
- Lot: Intoxicated and fathering children with his daughters
- Saul: Rebelling against the commandment of God with the spoils of war
- David: Taking the wife of another
- Solomon: Departing from putting God first in the worship of the gods of his wives
- Peter: Denying Christ three times

However three men are examples of something special:

Acts 13:22-23 – David

(22) And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

(23) Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus
- Although imperfect, David's heart always put God first

Acts 4:8, 13 – Peter

(8) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

- Peter addresses the religious leadership: (6) Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.
- From being an impetuous disciple to becoming an apostle (who will judge with Christ **MATT 19:28**)

(13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

- The confidence of Peter was not through worldly experience, but faith in Christ

Joshua 24:29 – Joshua

(29) And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old

- To the end of his life, Joshua is defined as a 'servant of the LORD' – A role he never wavered in.

The testimonies of David, Peter and Joshua - you don't have to be flawless, just willing and faithful.

Staying on the path of success will focus on two disciplines for the believer to encourage themselves (and each other) in faith, as REMEMBER and RECOMMIT.

Memory – People tend to remember the 'bad' forever, but the 'good' is quickly forgotten. It is a necessity to not only remind (or teach) others, but to keep the testimony of Christ in the forefront of your memory.

Joshua 23:1-3 – The first parting address of Joshua: A call for remembrance

(1) And it came to pass a long time after that the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua waxed old *and* stricken in age.

- Joshua establishes the occasion: A time of change, as his mission / ministry comes to a close

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith

- o Paul encourages Timothy, as his ministry draws to a close

The believer is faced with many changes in their lifetime – These may be excellent opportunities to pause and reflect, share, and review relationships (with more than affection, but a sense of purpose – A purpose toward God)

(2) And Joshua called for all Israel, *and* for their elders, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers, and said unto them, I am old *and* stricken in age:

- As with the example of Peter, Joshua's audience is 'all' (not simply a select few) – God's word is applicable to all.

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

- The eligibility for salvation is for anyone

The believer is to cast a wide net – Address any who will hear. For a call to remembrance, it may be your family, your church, your co-workers, a social club/membership: All have heard some truth of God, do not attempt to divide between believers (give the truth to all), and all should know you for who you are (no one should be surprised to learn you are a Christian).

(3) And ye have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the LORD your God *is* he that hath fought for you.

- Joshua presents the truths witnessed by the children of Israel (ye have seen):
 - All that the LORD your God hath done unto all these nations because of you
 - The LORD your God . . . fought for you.

It is not a question – It is a statement of fact that God acted specifically for the children of Israel

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

- Paul goes beyond the foundation of the promise of eternal life to cite the reward that awaits those who act in the love of Christ (JOHN 14:15) - A crown of righteousness.
- He also claims this as an action by God that is already accomplished! Putting the fulfilment of the promise into remembrance as a completed act, not merely something hoped for.

The believer must put the promise of God into perspective – Not as a distant event to occur someday, but a reality that is currently in effect

- For example: Eternal life – When will it start? For the believer, it already has!
- If you have earned a crown of righteousness, it awaits you upon your transformation to incorruptible. It is there now, not in some abstract future.

Psalms 103:2-5 – What can God do for us?

(2) Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

(3) Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

(4) Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

(5) Who satisfieth thy mouth with good *things*; so *that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

- The believer is encouraged to remember the power of God – In His will, nothing is impossible.

Joshua 23:14 . . . Not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, *and* not one thing hath failed thereof.

- Joshua reminds 'all' – Not one promise of God has failed

Joshua 23:15 Therefore it shall come to pass, *that* as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you; so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you . . .

- Joshua reminds 'all' – Not all promises are reward (there is the promise of punishment for error)

Stay on the path of success by first remembering God, His will, His promise, and His love for you.

Next Lesson: Joshua – Staying on the path of success - Recommit

Joshua – 44: Stay On The Path Of Success - Remember

Study Questions

1. According to Acts 13:22, how is David the *son* of Jesse described?

2. According to Acts 4:13, how was the behavior of Peter viewed?

3. According to Joshua 23:2, who did Joshua address in his call to remembrance?

4. According to 2 Timothy 4:8, how are those who love the Lord's 'appearing' rewarded?

5. Complete the following scripture:

James 4:17 Therefore to him that _____ to do _____, and doeth *it* not, to him it is _____.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| T | F | The Christ was promised to be of the seed of David. |
| T | F | Peter addressed all the rulers of Jerusalem with the gospel. |
| T | F | The children of Israel witnessed the promises of God fulfilled. |
| T | F | All of God's promises are for reward. |