11-11-2026 – Land of the Free/Because of the Brave

Veterans Day. Thank you to those who served … heroes who sacrificed for us.

- "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." Our nation has had many heroes.
- Star-Spangled banner, "land of the free and the home of the brave."
  - Francise Scott Key – lawyer. Poem – Ft. McHenry.
  - Ron Reagan - This is the land of the free **because** of the brave

Military Service takes dedication, commitment, and bravery.

So let's look at a military leader from the Bible. Known for Battle/Jericho.

- To enter Prom. Land would require many battles; 31 kings defeated.

Joshua 1 - Joshua chosen as Moses' successor. . . finish what Moses started.

1 After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, **2** "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. **3** I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— **4** from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' **5** No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

6 "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. **8** Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. **9** This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

- Joshua was going to need courage… bravery to meet his destiny.
  - He had to encourage ex-**slaves** to fight. **Wanderers** to **settle**.
  - He faced tough issues. Had to be viewed as legitimate leader.

        - Moses led 40 yrs; loved, admired, had developed trust. He was a true leader. (Joshua had been a dissenter)
- It's hard to step into those shoes. Hard to be accepted. Trusted.
- God tells Joshua to "be strong and very courageous," – 3 times.
        - Moses had spoken similar words to J. (Deut. 31)
    - Our **courage/bravery** is **based** on **God's abilities**, not ours.
    - **Isaiah 41:10** - "Do not fear, **for I am with you**; do not be afraid, for **I am your God**. I will **strengthen** you; I will **surely help** you; I will **uphold** you with My righteous right hand."
        - Our ability to face an **unknown future** comes thru **faith.**
            - Not blind faith. Faith based on the Bible. Stories…
        - Likewise, our success isn't b/c we're great; but b/c God is.
            - **Philippians 4:13** – "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."
    - No matter what you face – do it w/o fear.
        - **Psalm 27:1** – "The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?"
        - **Romans 8:31** – "What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Ultimately, Joshua led Israel for 28 years. Died in Canaan age 110. Buried PL

- Joshua led crossing of the Jordan River at flood stage; led the battle of Jericho; the establishment of the Israelites in Canaan.
        - He led the divisions of land, set of cities of refuge.
        - He led in celebrating Passover (Josh. 5).
        - Final act - led the people to renew their commitment to God … to serve Him and be devoted (Joshua 23-24)

- **13** So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.’
14 “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.
15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

    - We have to make that same decision.
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We also have to be Brave in Sharing our Faith:

- Jesus directed us to Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.
    - **Paul -** Eph. 6:19 - “Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel”
    - **Peter** - Acts 4:29 – “enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”
    - 2 Corinthians 3:12 – “Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.”
- Let’s share our faith… tell our stories with boldness. Be brave.
    - This world needs a Christian uprising. Be bold. Courageous!