Southwest Baptist Church

Generational Differences

Joshua the Slave

Key Truths-God enables whom He calls.

Key Applications-God will greatly use the individual who seeks to know God greatly.

Verses to Ponder-Philippians 3:10; Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 103:7

Pray and read: Exodus 3-7

When a servant casts a shadow

“Ninety-nine percent of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses”.

George Washington Carver

Joshua would have heard the stories of Abraham and how he was a man that believed God

and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness. He would also have beheld the

uncompromising spirit of Moses as he would make no deals with Pharaoh. His sole

objective was to do what God told him to do and say and that was that Pharaoh was to let

his people go. While God is working and developing Moses, there is a shadow that is being

cast over servants that would follow in his steps, namely Joshua.

Joshua could have thought that he was nothing more than a slave and that God would not

be able to use him in a mighty way. The thing that would be used to offset this mindset

would be for God to use someone that lacked their own ability, strength and riches.

Someone such as a shepherd named Moses. He was a man that was over 80 years old and

the prime of his youth was gone and did not have great speaking abilities and had every

excuse in the world not to serve God. God would deal with the excuses of Moses and lead

him and guide him in such a way that it would serve notice to everyone that God was able

to use anyone. The New Testament would give us the same teaching. God has chosen the

foolish and weak things of this world and not the mighty and wise.

Moses goes before God and asks God, “who am I” (Exodus 3:11)? He is letting God know

that he is not anyone special. There was a time that Moses thought he would deliver Israel

when he saw the Egyptian mistreating and Israelite and killed the Egyptian and hid him in

the sand (Exodus 2:11). Later while seeking to resolve a matter between two Israelites,

they turn on him and wonder if he is going to kill them the same way that he killed the

Egyptian. He is now up in years and is certain that there is no way that God could ever use

him at this stage of his life, and he isn’t exactly looking forward to doing the job anyway.

Many of us seek to avoid immediately acting on the commands of God, excusing this by our

lack of information, knowledge or training. How many people want to “think it is over”, or

“pray about it”. Perhaps the excuse is that they didn’t go to seminary or bible college and

lack the credentials necessary to serve God. This is nothing more than a smokescreen to

unbelief.

Moses will question God on who He is? He also tells God that the people will not believe

him, nor will they listen to his voice (Ex. 4:1). He will also remind God that he is not very

good at speaking and God will send Aaron as his mouthpiece and speak for him. For every

excuse Moses gave God gave him an answer and command. Moses finally surrenders to

the voice of God and surrenders to His will.

The Lord continually tells Moses what to say and what to do (Exodus 7:2; 10; 20). Again,

and again all that they do is repeat the same message that God has instructed them to say.

The casting of a shepherd's staff before Pharaoh and it turning to a serpent was met by the

magicians of Pharaoh. They cast their rods, and they became serpents as well. The

serpent from Moses’ rod consumed the serpents of Janis and Jambres. God kept doing the

miraculous and doing it through very common and very old men.

In the wings stood a young Joshua and Caleb. They had a different spirit, but they were

exposed to the same things that everyone else was. They heard the same stories of the

might of God and the work that He did through Moses and Aaron. There are many works

that have occurred in our churches. The hand of God has been gracious and powerful as

He has and continues to use common ordinary men. The power is not in these men and

women but in God and God alone! Joshua heard the stories of Abraham’s faith, saw the

uncompromising spirit of Moses and beheld the wondrous works of God as He uses

common men to demonstrate His greatness and glory.

Wouldn’t it have been much easier for God if He would have given the task of sharing the

gospel to the angels? They would need no encouragement and surely would have no fear.

They would be able to spread the gospel to the entire world in a matter of days. They would

have traveled at the speed of light and offered no excuses, nor would they have any need

for rest. But God has chosen us to spread the gospel. There is absolutely no excuse for us

to not carry out this wonderful task and mission of sharing Jesus with as many people as

we can, making generational differences and bringing God glory.

Questions to Ponder

1. What qualifies a person to serve God?

2. What are some common excuses for not serving God?

Joshua The Slave

Key Truths-There is no one like our God!

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Key Applications-We serve a great God, and we should attempt great things for a great

God!

Verses to Ponder-Isaiah 40:17; Psalm 93

Pray and Read-Exodus 11-12

Oh, What a Night!

Over four hundred years of horrible captivity at the hands of the Egyptians and their

Pharaoh. God has brought His servant Moses and his brother Aaron to the forefront. Nine

plagues have come upon the Egyptians as God demonstrates His power over all the

Egyptian gods and power over Pharaoh. The heart of Pharaoh has grown hard, and he has

had enough of Moses and his God. He informs Moses that the next time that he sees him

he will surely die, therefore he tells Moses that he doesn’t want to see him ever again. The

night that the final plague is unleashed on Egypt is not only frightening but also a

demonstration of the sovereign power of God over all.

We have been looking at Joshua and the faith that was placed in his heart by the story of

Abraham and his trust and faith in God. We also have seen the uncompromising spirit of

Moses and how Joshue would receive this spirit unto himself. God was working in the life

of Moses and while He was working and developing Moses, Joshua and others were

learning and beholding that if God could work in the life of Moses, He could surely work in

their lives as well.

The time now comes that God will unleash the final plague but also establish the Passover

and the foreshadowing of the coming of Christ. Moses let's all know that God has spoken

to him and that at midnight death would come to all the firstborn of Egypt (Exodus 11:4-6).

They are instructed to take a lamb and kill it and take the blood and place it over the door

and sides of the door of their home. When death comes it will Passover all the homes that

by faith placed blood on the door as they were instructed.

The Jews are to gather and consume the lamb and follow the instructions of Moses as they

hear the cry of death all around them. Many heard the cries and heard the instructions, but

not all took it to heart. Obviously, Joshua took it to heart and that night was never removed

from his heart nor mind. He learned to fear God and to do as God said immediately.

They were told to remember this day forever and to never forget what God had done for

them. This was to be an enduring celebration for the people of Israel. the celebration

would remind Israel of God’s power, God’s love and God’s grace in making them His own.

This is something that Joshua took to heart, and he could never think of anything other than

serving God, obeying God and loving God.

The Lessons of the Passover

We see the horrible consequences of sin.

The final plague was an act of judgment. God judged Pharaoh and Egypt. Passover

reminds us that sin comes with a price. It not only destroys relationships, leads us away

from God’s perfect design for our life, and often hurts the people we love. it also puts a

barrier between us and our Holy God that cannot easily be removed. Many individuals that

preach will stay away from using the word sin in their sermons. The question would be,

“what part does sin have in your preaching”? Many would say, “that they think people are

aware of their sin. I don’t need to remind them of their sin, I just need to point them to

God’s love. “It’s a noble sentiment, but I don’t agree with it. I don’t think we have any idea

how devastating and offensive our sin is to God! And until we face our sin squarely, we will

not be interested in His grace. Passover helps us face the truth.

We learn of the astounding depth of God’s love.

God’s love is shown in His persistent pursuit of the Israel’s release from bondage. God is

also persistent in His pursuit of individuals to come to a saving faith. He is persistent in His

affection for us even though we have resisted Him time and time again. We would be

astonished at the number of times in our life God has sent a circumstance, a person, or a

simple whisper to our heart all in the effort to draw us to Him. You are here today because

God is calling to your heart.

God’s love is show in His willingness to send Christ to pay for our sin. R.C. Sproul

writes,

The liberal view that God is just a big Santa Claus in the sky who overlooks sin has

permeated our culture and infects the minds of Christian people. The good news of the

gospel is not that God overlooks sin, but that He has dealt with it.

If God overlooked sin, He would be a God without moral standards, without character. But

the true God is a holy God. He has integrity, and He will not overlook sin or clear the guilty

in His court. sin and guilt must be dealt with, not passed by. [Sproul, Before the Face of

God, Book 4 #16]

God’s way of dealing with our sin was to provide a substitute (a lamb) that would take the

penalty for us. That substitute is Jesus. If we trust Him, we will be spared the dire

consequences from our sin.

We are reminded of the lasting benefit of obedience

The Israelites were commanded to do many things and some of those things must have

seemed strange, but they were not asked for their opinions. Note the following: -get a lamb -kill the lamb -put blood on the doorposts of your house -roast the lamb -don’t leave leftovers -eat with your bags packed and your coat on -don’t go outside until you are told to do so

There was no room for disobedience. Those that trusted God’s instructions were spared.

It doesn’t take faith to do what we already want to do. Real faith is trusting God when you

don’t understand but are sure that God knows what he is doing and all one does is to

follow.

Joshua and others were there and saw the things that only read about. He saw the

awesomeness of God and sought only to trust and obey this awesome God. The same is

true today for everyone that will trust and obey God, believing that there is no one like Him.

We will continue to look at Joshua and seek the scriptures to understand how he had such

a different spirit while surrounded by individuals that were still slaves in their heart. Joshua

would be a slave no more! He took the lessons to heart and those lessons shaped and

molded his character and convictions. May God so overwhelm our hearts so that we

would have different spirits in their generation. God is looking for another Joshua. Is that

person you?

Questions to ponder

1. What are your thoughts of the night of Passover?

2. What lessons do you gain from Passover?

3. What does God think of one’s sin?

Joshua The Slave

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Generational Differences

Key Truths-God has not brought one so far so that He can forsake.

Key Applications-God will do whatever needs to be done to ensure victory for His people.

Verses to Ponder-2 Chronicles 20:29; Deut. 31:8

Pray and Read- Exodus 14:13-14

Learning to stand still

One of the hardest things for believers to do is to be still in the midst of the storm. The

armies of Pharaoh are coming after them and the only thing in front of them is the red sea.

The Lord instructs Moses to stretch his rod and part the sea (Exodus 14:15). Remember

during perhaps one of the greatest miracles of the Old Testament, the people were crying

to Moses and desiring to return to Egypt. They were out of Egypt, but slavery was so deep

inside them that even the greatest of miracles could not lift that veil from their eyes.

There are times in the life of believers that even the greatest of miracles cannot remove

their heart of disbelief. They can only enjoy God as long as everything is going their way and

there are no trials or hardships. They also can never seem to remember the great things

that God has done or will do again.

This is where Joshua and Caleb were different. They beheld the miracles just like everyone

else, but they came to understand that the God that they served was going to do whatever

was necessary for His people to gain victory. Every time that they faced a difficult situation

they were sustained and strengthened by the thought that this God was leading and loving

them. They fought from victory and were not running towards victory.

They also understood that their God was eternal, and even though the patriarchs were all

dead, God was still alive, and the same power and promises were in effect for them.

Joshua knew that God works were powerful but more works were on the way. The only

thing necessary was that individuals needed to keep stepping forward so that God could

renew His mercy afresh and anew.

God through His word is seeking to reveal Himself to you and desires that you never forget

all that He has done, all He is doing and all that He is going to do. The stories in the Bible

and the individuals in the bible are there so that we might see the faithfulness of God and

how He was able and willing to use normal people then and now. The greatness of God is

still in our midst, and He is seeking that person that will ask God to show Himself strong

through them. The only that is required is trust, faith and obedience in God. God delivered

Israel and the parting of the red sea is a mighty miracle and the blessings tremendous.

What sea is God seeking that you part in your life? What great thing is God seeking to do in

you. Will you offer excuses as Moses? Will you come from the fold as did Joshua and say

to the Lord, “here I am Lord, please use me”.

Questions to Ponder

The bible does not speak much about Joshua during the Exodus, but we are sure that he

was there. He was observant and obedient to the call of God. While God was working

through the life of Moses, God was casting a shadow over Joshua and speaking to him at

the same time.

1. Does God want you to attempt great things for Him? why?

2. What is your Red Sea? What can we pray for together?

3. What do you think God means to be still? What keeps us from being still?