Southwest Baptist Church

Generational Differences

Joshua the Slave

Key Truths-The joy of freedom is non-negotiable

Key Applications-A Christian is to never settle for anything other than God’s best for their

lives.

Verses to Ponder- Romans 10:19; Isaiah 54:17

Pray and Read- Exodus 8:25-10:29

Make no Deals with the Devil

When I was growing up in Corpus Christi many years ago, my grandfather Felipe would

come one to two times a year and visit us. He had a great big smile and a very friendly

disposition. He would come and speak to my dad and always seemed to offer up great

counsel and advice for my father. Before he left, he would give each of us an allowance.

Since we were very poor this was the best part of his visit. He gave me a five-dollar bill and

I was in hog heaven. He also gave my older brother and sister money. I was young and

didn’t know the difference between the amounts and how they varied in value.

When my grandfather left, my older brother Ruben came to me and made me an offer. He

had his hands full of change. A few quarters, a fifty-cent piece and several nickels, dimes

and many pennies. He offered to give me all of those coins for my sole bill of five dollars. It

sure did seem like it was much more than what I had. He actually gave me two dollars and

twenty cents for my five-dollar bill. I found out at a young age that I was never to barter

with my older brother because he would always get the best of me. I tried to get my money

back, but he told me that a deal was a deal. I never thought of telling my dad about the

transaction.

Joshua has in front of him perhaps the greatest leader that ever lived and he would learn

that you never make deals with the enemy. God through Moses begins to unleash the

plagues against Egypt and its Gods. Pharaoh calls for Moses (Exodus 8:25) and tells him to

go and sacrifice to God in the land. In the following verses we find that Pharaoh tells

Moses to go and sacrifice but that he is not to go very far. When an individual comes to

saving faith in Christ, they are set free and are no longer slaves to sin. But the enemy will

seek to encourage your newfound faith but also challenges that one must not go very far in

their service to God. It is okay to go to church, to sing and to even contribute. The only

thing is that one is to not become radical in their faith. Don’t follow Christ to the degree

that you give your all and learn to die daily to the world. Don’t go very far! Moses does not

agree and will not be submissive to Pharaoh because he knows that he is a defeated foe

and that he will go as far as God wants him to go. Pharaoh then hardens his heart.

God continues to send plagues that strike fear into the hearts of Pharaoh’s servants.

Pharaoh then tells Moses to go and serve the Lord and go as far as you want to go, but who

is going with you (Exodus 10:8-11)? Pharaoh then tells them to go and serve God but leave

the children in Egypt and they will be here when you return. Serving the Lord will be

dangerous and not something for children. Moses says that they will go with their young

and with their old and they will not leave them behind. There are individuals that are very

involved with church, but they leave their children behind. They place church and its

activities above their own family. The truths of God and the worship of God was to be

taught by one’s parents and family elders. It was never the sole responsibility of the

church to teach one’s children that task belongs to the parents. Pharaoh is trying to

negotiate as if he is in charge and even has leverage, but he has no leverage. He is

defeated and the more that he hardens his heart the more that the wrath of God is

descending upon Egypt. He tells Moses to go worship God but don’t go too far, go worship

your God but leave your children in Egypt. Moses does not negotiate and will not submit to

a defeated foe.

Three days pass by and Pharaoh tells Moses to go and worship their God and to go far, go

and worship your God and take your little ones, but leave your flocks and herds in Egypt

(11:24). Leave your livelihood ad treasure in Egypt. The only thing that Moses will agree to

is that Pharaoh will let his people go! There is no compromise and there is no deal to be

made. Many have gone to serve the Lord with their families and have gone far but they still

do business and handle their money as if though they were still in Egypt. Away from Egypt

everything belongs to God, and we are blessed to be God’s stewards. We will not keep our

treasure in Egypt and will only be satisfied with a total liberation and not accept anything

that is partial. We want the best from God, and we want to give Him our best.

Pharaoh’s heart is hardened once again (10:27-28), and Moses lets him know that this is

the last time that they will speak face to face. The final plague comes upon Egypt and

shakes it to the very core. The death of the firstborn of all that have no blood on their door

frame would surely die. Pharoah at midnight calls for Aaron and Moses and tells them to

take their flocks and herds, their little ones and to leave and be gone. There was not an

Egyptian house that did not have wailing and crying because every house of the Egyptians

had their firstborn dead (Exodus 12:30).

You have been set free, and your great enemy has been defeated. The only thing that he

can do is try to deceive you and make you believe that you are still a slave. Make no deals

with the devil! Joshua would have beheld the steadfastness of Moses and would take what

he had seen to heart. He was a slave no more and there was no negotiating to be done with

the enemies of God’s people.

Questions to ponder

1. Are you getting and giving God your best? Share what that looks like.