



Be Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1:1-9

January 3, 2021

When Moses died, it was time for a new leader to step forward. Uncertainty probably doesn't capture the spectrum of emotions felt by the Israelites ... and certainly not for Joshua.

Joshua—you recall—was one of the two youngest spies sent to take a peek at the fortified city of Jericho. Only Joshua and Caleb came back and spoke these words of faith, "We should go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." (Numbers 13:30). Everyone else was overcome with fear.

Many read these words of Caleb and Joshua and believe they had no fear (or felt no reason to fear). Guess again. Over and over God says to Joshua, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. For I am with you." Why say this over and over unless there's an issue?

God doesn't lead with, "Hey, don't be afraid when you're facing overwhelming odds ... just get over it!" Not at all. God leads with this command: Be strong and courageous. Strength and courage are the starting points.

Are you being strong? Are you living courageously? Do you realize that you have a choice?

Sermon Notes:

God gives a word of _____ before a statement of _____ when encouraging Joshua. This is the _____ of God's word for all people.

Too often, we fail to _____ the promises of God because we _____ the _____ ahead.

Anytime God _____ a word, it indicates you may have _____ not everyone _____.

_____ and _____ are both important, but _____ things _____.

Personal Reflections:

Three ways I need to improve my "being" are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

This past year, fear has impacted my life by...

You can decide ... you can choose strength and courage. This isn't stated in a fool-hardy way or calling us to ignore common sense (i.e. have the courage to run across Interstate 5 during rush hour). Choosing strength and courage over fear is the key. Be strong. Be courageous.

Complete these sentences:

- One area of life where I need to choose **strength** over fear is _____
- One area of life where I need to choose **courage** is _____

Personal Readings: Ephesians 3:16, 6:10, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 28, Isaiah 33:2, Isaiah 40:31, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Psalm 27:14