God’s Pep-talk to Joshua
Joshua 1:1-9

Introduction:
A. We all need a pep-talk once in a while.
   1. Best efforts seem not enough.
   2. Past experience not encouraging.
   3. Present and future responsibility seems too big for a hundred like us.
B. Joshua needed a pep-talk and God gave it to him.
   1. His past experience was not very encouraging.
      a. Had been here before - eager to go - stopped by murmuring people.
      b. Had seen his generation die in the wilderness.
      c. Had seen the people get to Moses.
   2. His present situation was not encouraging.
      a. Not as young as was when first entered the land as spy.
      b. Did not have Moses for strength and counsel.
      c. Leading a generation that did not share his memory of Egypt.
   3. His immediate future raised many questions.
      a. Had enemy become stronger in 40 years?
      b. How will the people act under pressure — given past history?
      c. How long would the campaign take before final victory?
C. God had a simple two-fold message for Joshua:

Discussion:
I. “Moses My Servant Is Dead” (v. 1)
   A. Joshua knew that! — Had mourned 30 days.
   B. Joshua must accept that — could not live in the past!
      1. Little profit in second guessing: What if Moses had not sinned?
      2. Little profit in what dwelling on what might or could have been — if?
      3. Little accomplished by scape-goat hunting for past problems.
   C. Joshua must now “arise,” put the past behind him, and attend to the task at hand .
      1. Paul was able to “forget those things behind...” (Phil. 4:12).
      2. Paul was able put the “Mark” thing behind him (cf. Col. 4:10).

II. “Be Strong and of good courage” (v. 6).
   A. Enough to trust God’s promise (vv. 3,4, 6).
   B. Enough to trust God’s providential power and presence (v. 5,9).
      1. How powerful were Canaanites? — God was more.
      2. What if we run into more problems than we handle? (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13).
      3. “Have I not commanded you?” — “Do it and leave the results to Me?”
      4. Would God send them into battle and leave the stranded?
   C. Enough to do God’s precepts (vv. 7-8).
      1. If Joshua would do this, God would take care of rest.
      2. Strong enough to:
         a. “Do according to all the law” — “all that is written” (v. 7,8); cf. Jas 2:10; 1:25)
         b. “Not turn from it to the right hand or to the left” (v. 7; cf. 2 John 9).
         c. Keep law in his mouth (v. 8; cf. 2 Tim 4:1-4).
         d. “Mediate in it day and night” (v. 8; cf. Psa. 1:1ff)

Conclusion:
A. Why does it take so much strength and courage to trust in God?
   1. Have forego immediate gratification for distant promise.
   2. Must act on power, presence and providence when not immediately apparent.
   3. Must keep doing things the Lord’s way when other ways seem faster and more effective.
B. Let us arise and do the task at hand — trusting God for the results.

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