"JOSHUA: A CONQUERER FOR GOD"

5/19/10

INTRODUCTION:

Joshua was a conqueror for God. Not a quitter, not a loser, not a defeatist, not a "chicken" but a conqueror - a victor - a champion!

***Though you will never be asked to do what Joshua did,**
YOU, TOO, CAN BE A CONQUEROR FOR GOD!

By adopting the characteristics of a conqueror (as seen in the life of Joshua):
Implement the characteristics of Joshua into your life:

I. Joshua was a man of CONFIDENCE (Numbers 14:6-9)

*A conqueror is one who faithfully believes God's promises

A. Confidence in the promise of God (13:1-2; 14:8)

B. Confidence in the power of God (14:9a)

C. Confidence in the presence of God (14:9b)

II. Joshua was a man with a COMMISSION (Joshua 1:1-5, 5:13-15)

*A conqueror is one who humbly submits to God's authority

A. A commission with a promise (1:1-5)

B. A commission with Christ's holy presence (5:13-15)

III. Joshua was a man of COURAGE (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9)

*A conqueror is one who boldly fights God's battles

A. Joshua's courage is evident in the quick, bold, assertive direction he gives as he commands Israel (1:10, etc.)

B. Joshua's courage is evident in the respect he was given by Israel (1:16-18, 4:13-14)

Joshua was justified in conquering the nations of Canaan for three reasons: See Deut. 9:4-5

1. Because it was God's battle; Joshua and Israel were simply God's instrument to do His will (Deut. 9:4, 5)
2. Because of the wickedness of the nations (Deut. 9:4-5)
3. Because the land actually belonged to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Deut. 9:5b)

IV. Joshua was a man of CONVICTION (Joshua 1:8, 24:14-15)

*A conqueror is one who strictly obeys God's commands

A. Joshua had convictions regarding God's Word (1:8, 8:35, 23:6)

1. He rehearsed God's commands (8:35, 23:6)
2. He responded to God's commands

B. Joshua had convictions regarding his family (24:14-15)

CONCLUSION: Joshua 24:29-31

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INTRODUCTION:

Did you ever face a task in life that you knew was God's will, yet the task was too great for you to handle?

Joshua was a man who faced big challenges, great responsibilities, and incredible tasks.

Imagine yourself in Joshua's sandals. You have wandered in a desert for over 40 years. And are somewhat wearied by the hardships along the way. You have seen 1.2 million of your own relations die in the wilderness. You have been under the command of the greatest leader who ever lived. and now you are asked to take his place (Moses' sandals were "tough to fill").

You are now the commander and chief of 2 million people. And you are about to enter a land where you are not wanted. A land filled with walled cities, large armies, settled forts, and military men of huge stature. You must cross a river that is at its highest point. Then you are commanded by God to conquer and take control of the entire land.

What a seemingly impossible task!

Such a task was given to a man named Joshua (whose name means: "Jehovah is salvation"). A man who would live up to his name by seeing the salvation (deliverance) of Jehovah. A man who would be the greatest military conqueror to ever live.

Joshua was a conqueror for God. Not a quitter, not a loser, not a defeatist, not a "chicken" but a conqueror - a victor - a champion!

***Though you will never be asked to do what Joshua did,**
YOU, TOO, CAN BE A CONQUEROR FOR GOD!

(not in physical warfare, but in the spiritual conflicts and challenges you will face)

How can I conquer for God?

How can I face the impossible and win?

By adopting the characteristics of a conqueror (as seen in the life of Joshua):
Implement the characteristics of Joshua into your life:

I. Joshua was a man of CONFIDENCE (Numbers 14:6-9)

*A conqueror is one who faithfully believes God's promises

A. Confidence in the promise of God (13:1-2; 14:8)

B. Confidence in the power of God (14:9a)

C. Confidence in the presence of God (14:9b)

Note: the contrast between the results of faith and unbelief (Num. 14:29-32, 38)

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days" (Heb. 11:30; Josh. 6).

II. Joshua was a man with a COMMISSION (Joshua 1:1-5, 5:13-15)

*A conqueror is one who humbly submits to God's authority

The word "commission" means just what it says - "co-mission" - a mission that you do not do alone, independently, by yourself. But it is a mission that God does with (hence, "co") you.

The pathway to leadership is submission to authority. Before you can lead, you must be able to follow.

Because Joshua was willing to submit to the leadership of Moses (Ex. 17:9-14, 24:13, 33:11), he eventually would become a great leader himself for God!

A. A commission with a promise (1:1-5)

V. 5

"I will not fail (drop) thee, nor forsake (abandon) thee."

God promised to never let Joshua sink (He would keep a firm grip on him) and to never leave Joshua alone (Joshua would never be all by himself).

The same promise is given to us in the N.T. Great Commission (Mt. 28:19-20).

B. A commission with Christ's holy presence (5:13-15)

Why is Joshua confronted by a Christophany?

--To show Joshua that he was an "underling" and that Christ was the Holy Commander-in-Chief (cp. I Pet. 5:4).

III. Joshua was a man of COURAGE (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9)

*A conqueror is one who boldly fights God's battles

The word "courage" or "courageous" occurs seven times in this book (more than any other book in the Bible).

How could Joshua have courage?

Answer: He was not fighting the battle, but rather God was fighting the battles through him.

NOTE: Joshua's courage did not come from new battle techniques or new weaponry. God did not teach Joshua new strategies, etc., but simply told him to trust and obey! Many times we can waste time thinking up new ways to reach the lost, new methods, new programs -- when all we need to do is obey God and trust Him for the results. What God requires you to do, God enables you to do.

God would never tell us to do something that we are unable to do.

"What must be done, can be done!"

One's courage is linked to his faith. No faith = no courage
Little faith = little courage
Strong faith = strong courage!

A. Joshua's courage is evident in the quick, bold, assertive direction he gives as he commands Israel (1:10, etc.)

B. Joshua's courage is evident in the respect he was given by Israel (1:16-18, 4:13-14)

Joshua was justified in conquering the nations of Canaan for three reasons: See Deut. 9:4-5

1. Because it was God's battle; Joshua and Israel were simply God's instrument to do His will
(Deut. 9:4, 5 - "The LORD doth drive them out")

2. Because of the wickedness of the nations (Deut. 9:4-5)
--Sexual perversion of every type (Lev. 18:1-30; *v. 24-25, 27)
--incest (v. 6-17)
--polygamy (v. 18)
--adultery (v. 20)
--homosexuality (v. 22)
--beastiality (v. 23)
--Child sacrifice (Lev. 18:21)
Deut. 12:31 - "Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods."

--Demonic worship of false gods (Deut. 12:30-31)

3. Because the land actually belonged to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Deut. 9:5b)

God originally gave the land to Abraham 690 years prior to the conquest.

Gen. 12:1 - the land given to Abraham

Gen. 13:15 - the land is promised to Israel forever!

Gen. 15:13-16 -Israel would not conquer it then because God was merciful to the Amorites. God patiently waited until the wickedness of the Canaanites came to a climactic head.

IV. Joshua was a man of <u>CONVICTION</u> (Joshua 1:8, 24:14-15)

*A conqueror is one who strictly <u>obeys</u> God's commands

Joshua was to sink his roots into God's Word, and thereby develop some deep, unchanging convictions. Convictions that would pass the test of fiery trials.

Note: the fire of trials can mold, solidify, and purify convictions, but should never melt them. Whatever melts was never a personal conviction.

A. Joshua had convictions regarding God's <u>Word</u> (1:8, 8:35, 23:6)

1. He <u>rehearsed</u> God's commands (8:35, 23:6)

2. He <u>responded</u> to God's commands
Note: the phrases, "the LORD said," and Joshua's response -
4:15-16 . . . 4:17
5:2 . . . . . 5:3
6:2 . . . . . 6:6
8:1-2 . . . . 8:3
10:8 . . . . 10:9
11:6 . . . . 11:7

B. Joshua had convictions regarding his <u>family</u> (24:14-15)

CONCLUSION: Joshua 24:29-31