

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Success God's Way

SERMON REFERENCE: Joshua 1:1-8

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) It is God's plan that we are prosperous and successful.
 - i) We just want to make certain that it is real prosperity and real success that we get.
- b) We cannot talk about genuine success for very long without coming to the first chapter of the book of Joshua.
- c) The book of Joshua is a gigantic object lesson.
 - i) It is actual, literal history; it happened.
 - (1) But it is more than history.
 - ii) It is the story of God's ancient people going into Canaan.
 - (1) That is the history, but beyond that, it becomes an object lesson for Christians.
 - (2) The Bible tells us that all these things happened to them for examples to us.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 10:11
- d) The Bible is incredibly interesting.
 - i) It is not full of legends or fairytales.
 - ii) These are true stories.
 - (1) Not only are they history, but they are also devotional literature.
- e) Victory is God's gift to every child.
 - i) If we are not living in victory, then we are living beneath our privileges.
 - ii) We are to be living in constant victory.
 - (1) 2 Corinthians 2:14
 - iii) The Bible admits the possibility of defeat in the life of a Christian, but the Bible never admits the necessity of it.
- f) The land of Canaan represented victory for the children of Israel.
 - i) In a devotional sense, it represents the land of victory for us today.
 - ii) The children of Israel had come out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land.
 - (1) If we are tired of being wilderness wanderers and want to be Canaan conquerors, then pay attention to this message.
- g) In today's message, there are three things that we will look at when we think about victory:
 - i) We need to visualize our victory.
 - ii) We need to vitalize our victory.
 - iii) We need to verbalize our victory.

2) WE NEED TO VISUALIZE OUR VICTORY (JOSHUA 1:1-5)

- a) Moses had died.
 - i) He was the great general, prophet, commander, and leader.
 - ii) Leaders come and go; leaders finally die.
- b) God's purpose did not die.
 - i) God's purpose is alive through all of the centuries.
 - ii) God's plans don't die with individuals.

- c) What did Canaan represent?
 - i) It represented freedom.
 - (1) Up until this time, the children of Israel had been a nation of slaves.
 - (2) Canaan represented the land of freedom.
 - (3) God's plan for us is freedom.
 - (a) Romans 6:14
 - (i) Sin should not have dominion over us.
 - (ii) We are to have freedom over the power of sin.
 - ii) It represented fullness.
 - (1) Before they went into Canaan, they were in the desert and on a very meager diet.
 - (a) They were being fed with manna, but they were tired of it.
 - (i) Numbers 11:4-6
 - (2) Canaan flowed with milk, honey, corn, wine, oil, figs, and grapes.
 - (a) This speaks to us about the fullness of the Spirit.
 - (3) Those who are walking in victory are not only to have freedom, but we are also to have fullness and the fruit of the Spirit.
 - (a) Love, joy, peace, goodness, gentleness, and so forth, are to be in our lives.
 - (i) Galatians 5:22-23
 - iii) It represented fulfillment.
 - (1) Up until this time, they had merely heard sermons about Canaan, and spies had told them about Canaan.
 - (a) But they were about to go in and see for themselves.
 - (2) Are you tired of just being a sermon sampler?
 - (3) Wouldn't you like to claim your possessions?
 - (a) Joshua 1:3-4
 - (b) Canaan was theirs before they went in and got it.
- d) Our duty is to possess our possessions.
 - i) Victory is not something that God will give us; He has already given it to us.
 - (1) If we have victory, then how come we don't have it?
 - (a) Because we have not possessed our possessions.
 - (2) God didn't say to the Israelites, "I will give you the land of Canaan."
 - (a) God said, "I have given it to you."
 - ii) We need to put the foot of faith on the promises of God and say, "This is mine, so I claim it."
 - iii) How can we have victory if we don't have victory?
 - (1) Many of us have books that we haven't read yet.
 - (a) Are they yours?
 - (i) Yes, in a sense.
 - (ii) But what you need to do is to possess your possessions.
- e) The life of victory is walking on conquered ground.
 - i) God has won the victory.

- (1) The victory is a God-given victory.
- ii) For those of us who live this side of Calvary, victory was won by the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, on the cross.
 - (1) As Jesus faced the cross, He said that the prince of this world was cast out.
 - (a) John 12:31
 - (2) When Jesus died upon the cross, Satan's kingdom came crashing down.
 - (a) Satan sails a sinking ship.
 - (b) Satan's back was broken by Calvary.
 - (c) Satan doesn't want us to understand that he has been stripped, shamed, and rendered helpless by Calvary.
- iii) This is putting the foot of faith on the blessings of God, the victory that is ours, and claiming it.
- f) Ephesians 1:3
 - i) God has blessed us.
 - (1) Not will bless us, but has blessed us.
 - ii) Do you have all the love you need?
 - iii) Do you have all the patience you need?
 - iv) Do you have all the courage you need?
 - v) Do you have all the faith and wisdom you need?
 - vi) The Bible says that God has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
 - (1) We don't have them because we haven't possessed our possessions.
 - (a) Again, we need to put the foot of faith on the promises of God and say, "That is mine."
- g) Victory is won not by trying, but by trusting and believing God.
 - i) God told Joshua to go and take what He had given him.
 - (1) God is the one who has given us the victory.
 - (2) Joshua 1:5
 - ii) Living in victory is not our responsibility.
 - (1) It is our response to God's ability.
 - iii) Romans 8:37
 - (1) Our victory is in Christ.
 - (2) We are not just simply conquerors, but we are "more than conquerors."
 - (a) This literally means "supra" conquerors.
 - (i) It's not that we win with a field goal in the last three seconds of the game, but that there is not even a contest.
 - 1. Satan is vanquished.
- h) We need to see what God has promised.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 10:11
 - ii) There is a land of freedom, of fullness, and of fruitfulness.
 - (1) And it is ours.

- 3) WE NEED TO VITALIZE OUR VICTORY (JOSHUA 1:5-7)
- a) We need to take this off the page and put it into our lives.
 - i) The promises didn't die with Moses.
 - ii) The promises didn't die with Joshua.
 - b) The promises are for all saints and for all seasons.
 - i) Time cannot erode the promises away.
 - ii) Psalm 119:89-90
 - (1) Don't let two thousand years keep you from a blessing.
 - (2) If God has said it and He has not canceled the promise, then we can claim it for our own.
 - c) The promises are also for all situations.
 - i) When Joshua went into Canaan, it wasn't all honey and no bees.
 - ii) There were seasons of difficulty.
 - iii) There were situations of hardship.
 - iv) But God was with him.
 - (1) Joshua 1:5
 - (a) Hebrews 13:5 reiterates this promise.
 - (b) This applies to us, too.
 - d) How do we vitalize it?
 - i) Joshua 1:6-7
 - (1) Behind every command of God is the promise of God.
 - (2) God will not command us to do anything that we cannot do, as He is with us, fills us, and equips us.
 - (3) Joshua needed the same things that we need.
 - (a) He needed strength to be strong.
 - (b) He needed boldness to be courageous.
 - (c) He needed obedience to do all that God told him.
 - (i) In our flesh, we don't have these qualities.
 - 1. Yet, this was what Joshua was commanded to have in order to be victorious.
 - 2. On the other hand, the victory was God's and not ours.
 - a. There is no contradiction here.
 - ii) Every demand upon our lives is not a demand upon us; it is a demand upon God in us.
 - (1) If God tells us to do something and does not equip us to do it, then He becomes a tyrant.
 - iii) The same God who makes these demands upon us is the same God who equips us; but He will not do it until we choose to have Him do it.
 - (1) Joshua told the Israelites, "Choose this day whom you will serve; as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
 - (a) Joshua 24:15
 - (2) God does it, but we must allow God to do it.
 - (a) Weak people can choose strength.

- (b) Cowards can choose boldness.
 - (c) Unfaithful people can choose obedience.
 - (3) It is not that we do it.
 - (a) We cannot do it without Him.
 - (4) He will not do it without our yielding to Him.
 - (a) God said, "There is the land. I want you to have it. Go, take it."
 - (i) But we must choose to obey Him.
- 4) WE NEED TO VERBALIZE OUR VICTORY (JOSHUA 1:8)
- a) Once we understand what God has done for us:
 - i) We visualize it.
 - (1) We see it.
 - ii) We vitalize it.
 - (1) It is ours, and we want it.
 - iii) Then, we begin to verbalize it.
 - (1) We begin to speak victory.
 - b) The Word of God is to be in our mouth.
 - i) Joshua 1:8
 - (1) The New Testament text that fits this passage is Ephesians 4:29.
 - ii) The Word of God, verbalized, ministers grace.
 - (1) We need to minister grace one to another.
 - (a) That is the reason we need to speak the Word of God to each other.
 - (2) John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, was converted by eavesdropping on several women who were talking about their love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Would anyone be converted by eavesdropping on your conversations?
 - iii) Malachi 3:16-17
 - (1) They thought about God's name and spoke one to another.
 - iv) Verbalize our victory.
 - (1) Take the Word of God and say it.
 - (a) Announce it because He hath said that we may boldly say.
 - (i) Hebrews 13:6
 - c) The Word of God is to be in our mind.
 - i) Joshua 1:8
 - ii) We can't verbalize that which is not first in our heart.
 - iii) Meditate on the Word of God day and night.
 - (1) Our spoken word speaks to our heart.
 - (2) Our heart speaks to the spoken word.
 - iv) Meditating on the Word of God is like getting a tune in our mind and humming it all day long.
 - (1) We just can't get it out.
 - v) Meditation absorbs the Word of God in our hearts and lives.

- vi) When someone meditates on the Word of God, he becomes a person of wisdom.
 - (1) Wisdom comes from meditation.
 - (2) Meditation is just thinking God's thoughts after Him.
- vii) Meditation is letting our souls soak in the Word of God over and over again.
 - (1) Psalm 1:1-3
 - (a) "Whatever he does will prosper."
 - (i) This is because he soaked his soul in the Word of God.
 - (2) A good illustration of this is when David fled from King Saul.
 - (a) David wondered whether or not he would be killed.
 - (b) Psalm 63:3-6
 - (i) David could be victorious because he had been meditating.
- viii) A good habit is to take a verse of Scripture and go to sleep thinking about it.
 - (1) Run it through your mind, chew on it, and soak on it.
 - (2) Let your last word be His Word.
 - (3) This is what David did.
 - (a) It was in his mouth because it was in his mind.
 - (i) Because it was in his mouth and mind, it was in his manner of life.
- d) The Word of God is to be in our manner of life.
 - i) Joshua 1:8
 - ii) It has to be in our mouth and mind before it can be in our methods.
 - (1) This is talking about living in victory.
 - iii) Reading, speaking, memorizing, and meditating will give you knowledge "about" God.
 - iv) Obeying God will give you knowledge "of" God.
 - (1) "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me."
 - (a) John 14:21
 - (b) Don't say that you love Him if you don't keep His commandments.
 - v) When we keep His commandments, He makes Himself real to us.
 - (1) Meditation leads us to the door of success, but obedience is the key that opens that door.
 - vi) God has given to us what it takes to obey.
 - vii) The Word of God was not given to satisfy our curiosity and to scratch our intellectual itch.
 - (1) It was given to lead us to obedience, which leads us to knowledge of God, and that leads us to victory.
 - viii) The real proof that we believe the Bible is that we obey it.
 - ix) When we obey, God reveals Himself to us in a wonderful way.
 - (1) When we obey, we say to God that we trust Him.
 - (a) And He will manifest Himself to us.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) In finances and in all of our life, victory is ours.
- b) Take the first chapter of Joshua and do the following:
 - i) Visualize it (see it).
 - ii) Vitalize it (claim it).
 - iii) Verbalize it (begin to speak it).
 - (1) Let it be in your mouth, mind, and manner of life.
 - (a) And you will find yourself walking on conquered ground.
 - (i) You will come out of the wilderness and into Canaan.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16