**Sermon Title: The Emphasis of Courage**

**Sermon Text: Joshua 1:1-5**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a life of courageous living in a stressful world.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 traits a person of courage must imitate.**

**Introduction:** The book of Joshua testifies to God’s covenantal faithfulness to His promises and His people. The book of Joshua displays God’s commitment to fulfilling His promises, the demonstration of His power in conquering Israel’s enemies, and provides examples of people who act in faith or in unbelief.

In Hebrew the name of our Savior, Jesus, is Joshua, this foreshadows Jesus by leading God’s people against their enemies. The accounts of the book of Joshua occur after Moses death. This was a new generation, not the one that left Egypt.

The book could be outlined this way:

1. Preparing for the land 1:1-5:12

2. Conquering the land 5:13-12:24

3. Dividing the land 13:1-22:34

4. Living in the land 23:1-24:33

It would take courage to go in and possess what God had already promised. This section we will look at today provides a hinge between the end of Deuteronomy, and the next section in Joshua 1:6-9 which provides responsibilities. All the responsibilities depend on God’s promise, God’s presence, and God’s power, which then guarantees the mission success, just as the New Testament exerts that Christ’s promises, Christ’s presence, and Christ’s power enables His disciples to achieve their mission.

(**Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:4-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**)

**Mark 16:15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

**Mark 16:20** And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

**Philippians 2:12-13** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

“Must one point out that from ancient times a decline in courage has been considered the beginning of the end.”

**I. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of being chosen. V.1**

**II. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of being commissioned. V.2**

**III. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of being a part of a continuation. Vv.3-4**

**IV. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of confidence. V.5**

**I. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of being chosen. V.1**

A. Chosen to succeed Moses. V.1a

“C.S. Lewis, in The Screwtape Letter, vividly describes Satan’s strategy: ‘He gets Christians to become preoccupied with their failures; from then on, the battle is won.’”

[**Erwin Lutzer, Failure: The Back Door to Success**]

B. Chosen to be the Lord’s servant. V.1b

(**Joshua 24:29**)

Jesus (**John 15:15**)

C. Chosen as an experienced servant. V.1c

He has been with Moses since Exodus 17.

“Joshua’s Preparation for Ministry

1. Ex. 17:9, 10, 13-14 Joshua led the victorious battle against the Amalekites.

2. Ex. 24:13 Joshua, the servant of Moses, accompanied the Jewish leader to the mountain of God (cf. 32:17).

3. Num. 11:28 Joshua was the attendant of Moses from his youth.

4. Num. 13:16 Moses changed his name from Hosea (“salvation”) to Joshua (“the Lord saves”).

5. Num. 14:6-10, 30, 38 Joshua, along with Caleb, spied out the land of Canaan with 10 others. Only Joshua and Caleb urged the nation to possess the land, and thus, only they of the 12 actually entered Canaan.

6. Num. 27:18 Joshua was indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

7. Num. 27:18-23 Joshua was commissioned for spiritual service the first time, to assist Moses.

8. Num. 32:12 Joshua followed the Lord fully.

9. Deut. 31:23 Joshua was commissioned a second time, to replace Moses.

10. Deut. 34:9 Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom.”

[**The MacArthur Study Bible, Thomas Nelson, 1997, p.305**]

**II. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of being commissioned. V.2**

A. Commissioned to **complete** a task. V.2a

B. Commissioned to **organize** the people. V.2b

The fact that all the people were involved emphasizes the necessity of unity among the people of God to complete the task.

C. Commissioned to **receive** God’s gift of mercy. V.2c

It was because of God’s grace, not the efforts or qualifications of the Israelites that provided the land.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**III. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of being a part of a continuation. Vv.3-4**

**Genesis 12:1-3** Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. **2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**Deuteronomy 34:4** Then the LORD said to him, "This *is* the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying,`I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see *it* with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

This extension of Abraham’s and Moses’ promise to Joshua further establishes him as leader and successor.

“I would rather fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail.” [**Woodrow Wilson, quoted in Lloyd Cory, Quote Unquote**]

**IV. Courage comes by understanding the emphasis of confidence. V.5**

The reference to “as long as you live,” projects forward to the end of Joshua’s life.

A. The confidence is because of the **promise** of God. V.5a

There is the promise of divine power for his mission.

B. The confidence is because of the **presence** of God. V.5b

(**Joshua 24:16-24**)

C. The confidence is because of the **preservation** of God. V.5c

(**Joshua 24:29-31**)