

The Ark
June 24, 2020

Stewardship:

2 Corinthians 9:10 NLT *For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. 11. Yes you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.*

Peach Pit Potential.... No one eats the pit of the peach. Inside that pit is potential for perpetual peaches... if you plant it.P

Lesson
Strength & Courage

JOSHUA 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses assistant, saying:

2. Moses, My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people to the land which I am giving to them – the children of Israel.

3. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you as I said to Moses.

4. From the wilderness and this Libanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

5. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

*6. **Be strong and of good courage**, for this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.*

7. **Only be strong and very courageous**, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

8. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous and then you will have good success.

9. Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage**, do not be afraid, nor be dismayed for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Notice the instruction; “Be strong and courageous” is repeated three times in these nine verses, indicating Joshua was going to face something difficult that would require both strength and courage.

Joshua had been the assistant to Moses and one of the two spies who brought back a good report in Numbers 14. However, now Moses is gone and Joshua must lead this huge group of people into conquer the land God had promised.

Courage defined: The ability to do something that frightens you (brave); **mental or moral strength** to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty;

God’s promise: I will be with you
I will not leave or forsake you.
You will conquer the land

Joshua’s part: Be strong

Be courageous

(Purpose of the strength & courage was to enable him to observe and do what the Law of Moses required for it was in obedience to that law that He would conquer the land and be successful.)

Specific instruction: **Continuously speak God's Word** (This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth.)

Continuously meditate on God's Word (You shall mediate on it day and night.)

Obey and perform what God's Word instructs
(That you may observe to do what it says.)

If you do this, **YOU** will make your way prosperous and you will have success!

What it means to meditate on God's Word

Meditate: To think deeply and personally about scripture... reading it over and over....absorbing it believing it.... Obeying it... applying it.

To mediate is to shut everything else out and focus on God and what He might want to say to you from scripture.

Let's look at another scripture that talks about the power of meditation:

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight is in the law of the LORD and in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper.

Three Lifestyle Choices that Guarantee Blessing:

1. Never seek counsel or advice from the ungodly.
2. Never form deep relationships with non-believers
3. Guard your speech against scornful conversation

Three blessings of Meditating on God's Word:

1. Stability (He shall be like a tree)
2. Constantly watered by the Word (planted by rivers of water)
3. Fruitful in all seasons of life (shall bring forth its fruit in its season)
4. Health (whose leaf also shall not wither)
5. Prosperity (whatever he does shall prosper)

WHAT IF....Joshua had not been strong and courageous. What if he had not obeyed the instruction give him by God? We would have read a much different story

Finally, tonight let's look at a scripture that applies to us and meditate together on it:

2 Chronicles 7:14 If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

This scripture gives the keys to healing our land.

Who is it directed to?

Who are God's people today?

What is our part?

1. **Humble ourselves** (respectful, submissive, having a modest opinion of oneself, bowing before (*Romans 12:3* For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate *and* think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him).
2. **Pray**
3. **Seek My Face** – Seek the presence of God, desire to know Him – His character – His power. We do this most effectively through worship.
4. **Turn from wicked ways** (Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart – try me, and know my thoughts – and see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.) Repent = to turn away from toward *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sin to Him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

GOD'S PART:

I will hear

I will forgive

I will heal your land

What if we don't do our part? Will God still heal our land? Will you do your part?