



Passing the Baton

Date: July 28, 2024

Text: Joshua 24

BIG IDEA

This is the final scene of Joshua's life. Note that he is one of the few famous Old Testament heroes who actually finishes his journey well. In this chapter, Joshua thoroughly remembers God's past faithfulness and then renews the covenant at Shechem, knowing that the same God Who had been faithful would continue to be. Notice how Joshua sends the people back to their own inheritance in 24:28. In a similar way, this closing of the series is a "sending" of our congregation back into their inheritance, especially with the onset of the new school year.

Conversation Starter

- Who is someone who mentored you? Who is someone that you mentor/lead right now?

COMMENTARY #1

(Verses 1-13) Joshua gathers all the people together in order to remind them of God's faithfulness. He recounts their history—one

riddled with rescue, permeated with hope, and marked by the presence of God. Joshua knows his time of leadership is ending and he urges the people to remember Who God is and present their lives as a sacrifice to Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Joshua began his speech by recounting Israel's history?
 2. What does it mean to "present yourself to God?" How can we do this today?
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COMMENTARY #2

(Verses 14-21) Joshua then calls for the people to make a decision, "Choose who you will serve." He points out the false gods the people could be swayed by; these were gods of heritage or gods of proximity. Joshua recognized that humans will worship something (we too are often swayed to worship the idols surrounding us), but Joshua proclaims, "I will serve the Lord." The people immediately agree with Joshua's proclamation; in light of all that God has done, how could they not? But Joshua warns them that this decision cannot be done lightly; there would be consequences for failing to keep their covenant. Yet the people remain firm, "We will serve the Lord."

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important that Joshua acknowledges that following God is a choice? That the people could worship other gods?
 2. Was it important that Joshua challenge the peoples' commitment to God by reminding them of the significance of the covenant?
 3. Should our commitment be challenged? Has yours ever been?
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COMMENTARY #3

(Verses 22:33) Joshua immediately called for the people to act on their commitment by putting away idols and serving God alone. It is not enough to merely say the right words—our lives must reflect the covenant relationship we are in with God. When Joshua passed away, his legacy was that the Israelites faithfully served God all the days of his life and renewed their commitment to God at his death. As the last links to the wilderness generation died, they left the new generation with a challenge to keep conquering their Promised Land—a challenge you and I must respond to as well.

Discussion Questions

1. How does your life reflect the covenant you are in with God? How does it fall short?

2. What legacy are you going to leave? How can you change the areas you don't like?
 3. How can you challenge and prepare those coming after you?
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GOING DEEPER

1. How did the previous generation shape our current culture?
 2. How are you currently preparing the next generation?
 3. Reflect on your own life. Remember the times where God rescued you. Share His faithfulness with your group.
 4. What makes a "good" leader? Why was Joshua so successful when other great leaders fell?
 5. What does it mean to "finish well"?
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Four Essentials to Finishing Well | Desiring God](#)- Sermon

[7 Characteristics to Help You Finish Well \(navigators.org\)](#)-
Devotional

Group Activity

Each person identifies one person older than them who has led well/mentored them. What made that person a good leader? Why did they (or do they) impact your life?

Then, identify one person younger than them who they can begin praying about mentoring/ passing the baton to. Consider how God might be calling you to lead the next generation and how you can lead and finish well.