

Attitude 3 - Submissive

Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

I give my will and my life to Jesus Christ

Joshua 1:1-9 - Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, 2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. 5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. 6 Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. 7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. 9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

The Book of Joshua begins with God's commissioning of Israel's new leader. Great honor was placed upon him, and great power was placed in his hand. As in all cases this great power was accompanied by great responsibility. As we will learn, the responsibility given to Joshua would be fulfilled by the instructive, provisional Hand of God. Instruction for any man who desires to receive it will come by Him who has infinite wisdom, and provision will come by Him who has infinite resources. However, as with everything else in the Christian life, there are conditions placed upon the receiver of such things.

Submitting our lives to God requires careful attention to the word of God and the will of God. Learning how God wants me to live and learning what God wants me to do are the essentials of living the successful Christian life.

To submit is to accept somebody else's authority or will. To direct to another's knowledge, judgment or experience.

In this new chapter in the life of Joshua we will see a great biblical example of submission based on all the instruction and guidance that he needed from the Lord in order that he might successfully accomplish God's will at this time in his life.

1. **Vs. 1-4 - The Assignment.** Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, **2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.** **3** Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

Numbers 27:18 - And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;

A few things about Joshua:

- He learned how to follow before he was chosen to lead.... **vs.1 - the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister.....**this translates to be, "a workman under Moses, under his direction and command."
 - He was fit to rule because he learned to submit.
2. **Vs. 5,6 - The Encouragement.** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. **6** Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.
- God promised His presence..... **as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee.**

When you go where God sends you, you have Him with you wherever you go.....Jesus said the same thing to His disciples.

Matthew 28:19,20 - Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

- God promised His presence would never be withdrawn from him..... **I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.** Moses had assured him of this and now God Himself is telling him the same thing.....we need to be reminded!!!!

Deuteronomy 31:7,8 - And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. 8 And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

3. **Vs. 7,8 - The Instruction.** Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

What did God tell Joshua?

- To conform his life to everything concerning the Book of the Law.....quite a task!

The charge concerning the Book:

- He was to not let it depart from his mouth.....**This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth.** On all occasions he was to speak according to this rule; speak first to the situations of his own life and thereby be suitable to speak to situations in the lives of others.

"Don't be shady!!!!" In other words, Joshua, this law is not just for everyone else, it's for you AND everyone else.

Colossians 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Joshua must not only govern by law, and take care that the people observe the law, but he must observe it himself, and so by his own example maintain the honor and power of the law.....if we are not keeping God's word what business do we have sharing it? Joshua must first do what was written. It is not enough to hear and read the word, to praise and admire it, to know and remember it, to talk and expound on it, but we must do it.

- He was to meditate therein, day and night..... **but thou shalt meditate therein day and night.** That he might understand it and be ready to use it.

It would do us all well to consider what is happening in this story. If ever any man's responsibility might have excused him from meditating on the Law of God and other acts of devotion, we might think that Joshua's would. It would seem enough to lead several million people over the Jordan into the Promise Land, but it was not too much to excuse his personal responsibility to God's word.....he was commanded to find time to get it done.

Never think that any excuse is a good excuse for neglecting the word of God. There will never be any growth apart from our personal desire and effort to learn the Bible. It takes time and discipline to grow, and no one will ever grow that does not grow on purpose.

Careful observance is necessary if we are ever going to consistently submit to the word of God.

- 4. Vs. 9 - The Reminder. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.**

One of the first things God tells him and one of the last things..... **for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest....also in verse 5.**