

Sermon Title: Take Courage

Passage: Joshua 23

Main Idea: The faithfulness of God should motive His people to faithfulness

Setting: Approximately 25 years have passed since the conquest. Joshua is 110 years old. Joshua 23 is Joshua's final address to the leaders of Israel. In this passage Joshua looks back at the faithfulness of God over the course of his long life. In light of this he calls the leaders to remember God's faithfulness to them and to respond in faithfulness to God (23:1-2)

I. God's Faithfulness Motivates Obedience (23:1-8)

- A. Joshua calls the leaders to remember God's faithfulness (1-3)
- B. Joshua calls the leaders go forward in faith (4-8)
 - 1. The Lord will fulfill His promise to drive out your enemies (5)
 - 2. Be courageous to do all that the Lord has called you to do (6)
 - 3. The consequence of unfaithfulness (7-8)

II. God's Faithfulness Motivates Love (23:9-13)

- A. Joshua calls the leaders to remember God's faithfulness (9-10)
- B. Joshua calls the leaders go forward in faith (11-13)
 - 1. Love the Lord your God (11)
 - 2. Do not love the people of the land (12)
 - 3. The consequence of unfaithfulness (13)

III. God's Faithfulness Motivates Faithfulness (23:14-16)

- A. Joshua calls the leaders to remember God's faithfulness (14)
- B. Joshua calls the leaders to go forward in faith (15-16)
 - 1. God is faithful (15)
 - 2. Do not be unfaithful (16a)
 - 3. The consequence of unfaithfulness (16b)

Conclusion: Remember God's faithfulness and allow it to motive you to faithfulness. Be courageous enough to trust God and faithfully submit to Him.

Application Questions:

- How has God shown Himself faithful to you in the past?
- How does that experience encourage you in the present?
- How can the fact that God is faithful not only encourage right behavior, but discourage sin?
- What is one thing you will do this week to respond to God's faithfulness in obedience?
- What is one thing you will do this week to respond to God's faithfulness in love?
- What is one thing you will do this week to respond to God's faithfulness in faithfulness?
- How can you encourage others to be faithful this week?

Children's Application Questions:

- What does Joshua 23 teach us about God?
- What does the word "faithful" mean?
- Why should I be faithful to God?
- How can I be faithful to God this week?

Similar Passages of Scripture to Explore:

- Exodus 34:1-9
- Lamentations 3
- Malachi 3:6-4:5
- 2 Timothy 2:13
- Hebrews 10:19-25
- 1 John 1:9

Songs & Hymns to Meditate On:

- Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Praise Ye Jehovah
- May the Lord Find Us Faithful
- O Wondrous Love
- Mercies Anew
- My Father Planned It All

