

From Defeat to Victory: Joshua 8



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- ◇ When the Bible talks about something, especially repeatedly, we should take notice
- ◇ The Bible speaks about fear or not fearing some 350 times; divided by 66 books = 5 times per book
- ◇ By sheer volume of mention, what does that tell us?
- ◇ Fear is common to all
- ◇ God has something to say about fear
- ◇ “The hearts of the people melted & became like water”
- ◇ What does God have to say to them? To us?

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Joshua 8:1 (English Standard Version)

¹And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land."

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- ◇ “Do not be afraid or dismayed” – How?
- ◇ 1. Go up to Ai
- ◇ Ai = “Heap of ruins”
- ◇ Canaan & its population represent our flesh & our struggle with it
- ◇ Ai is a perfect name for our flesh & our desires

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- ◇ 2. Return to the place of defeat
- ◇ God knows us & that we need to conquer old defeats
- ◇ We've all suffered defeats & wondered if we'd get back to where we were before
- ◇ Defeat makes us fearful in several ways

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- ◇ 3. God speaks to us
- ◇ Like Joshua and Israel, we've been defeated and lost the will to fight
- ◇ We're like them in our fears and our need for God's Word
- ◇ "We are fearful people. We are afraid of conflict, war, an uncertain future, illness, and, most of all, death. This fear takes away our freedom and gives our society the power to manipulate us with threats and promises." - Henri Nouwen

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Deuteronomy 20:1-4 (English Standard Version)

¹"When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ²And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people ³and shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, ⁴for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.'

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- ❖ God has brought us into the land of new life in Christ, but there will be battles He knows we'll fail. That doesn't change His love or plan for us.
- ❖ He doesn't want us to fear, but we have to move from Chapter 7 to Chapter 8 to share Christ's victory!
- ❖ We'll have our defeats, but it doesn't mean we can't fight and win tomorrow!

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Joshua 8:1-2 (English Standard Version)

¹And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land. ²And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

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- ◇ 4. God has a plan for victory
- ◇ Christ didn't save us for defeat or for petty things
- ◇ He saved us for victory through heart transformation
- ◇ Victory means that despite circumstances we can be content
- ◇ Victory means pain doesn't have to rule me

Joshua 8:3-8 (English Standard Version)

³So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night. ⁴And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready. ⁵And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them. ⁶And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them. ⁷Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand. ⁸And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the LORD. See, I have commanded you."

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- ◇ 5. There's hard work to do
- ◇ Retaking lost ground requires hand-to-hand combat
- ◇ Part of our hard work is waiting on the Lord

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- ◇ 6. God has power for your victory
- ◇ It's some strange combination of hard work and God fighting for us
- ◇ **RESOURCES:**
 - The Discipline of Grace by Jerry Bridges
 - Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

Joshua 8:30-35 (English Standard Version)

³⁰At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, ³¹just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, "an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. ³²And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. ³³And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. ³⁴And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. ³⁵There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

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- ◇ Uncut stones; why?
- ◇ Because we can't add to God's salvation
- ◇ Built an altar on Ebal
- ◇ Because Christ's sacrifice and His blood are the only things that save us from the curse of sin
- ◇ Read all of the Law
- ◇ Because no other book, plan, revelation, or word of wisdom will work!
- ◇ Your flesh is at work & must be put to death daily

Colossians 3:3-11 (The Message)

³⁻⁴Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

⁵⁻⁸And that means killing off everything connected with that way of death: sexual promiscuity, impurity, lust, doing whatever you feel like whenever you feel like it, and grabbing whatever attracts your fancy. That's a life shaped by things and feelings instead of by God. It's because of this kind of thing that God is about to explode in anger. It wasn't long ago that you were doing all that stuff and not knowing any better. But you know better now, so make sure it's all gone for good: bad temper, irritability, meanness, profanity, dirty talk.

Colossians 3:3-11 (The Message)

⁹⁻¹¹Don't lie to one another. You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

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- ◆ Don't be tied to yesterday's defeats
- ◆ Sin doesn't have to own you in defeat, now or in eternity

Sanctus Student Ministry News

- Invite a friend and join us on...
- **Wed., August 11 @ 6:30**
in the Bonbrook Plantation Rec Center:
Nacho Libre party ~ Nachos, Games,
Basketball, Volleyball and more!
- You won't want to miss it!





Promotion

Children who will be in **1st-5th grade** in the 2010-11 school year will promote into Hi-5 on **Sunday, August 22**.

Students who will be in **grades 6-12** in the 2010-11 school year will promote into Sanctus on **Wednesday, August 11**, in time for our Nacho Libre party.

See you all in your new, exciting ministries in August!

Clothing Drive

Help us continue our ministry to the families of VBS!

◎ We are collecting the following:

- clothing for all children ~ birth to graduation
- women & men's sizes
- shoes, purses, backpacks, and jewelry

◎ Bring your donations **Sunday, August 8th**

◎ Help us deliver on **August 12th at 6:00 PM**



School Supply Drive: Bowie Elementary

- ✓ Please join us as we support local kids!
- ✓ Bring the needed supplies anytime between August 1st - 29th:
- ✓ 4 Count Crayons, Markers, Map Pencils, Red Checking Pencils, #2 Pencils, Glue Sticks, Spiral Wide Ruled Notebooks, Zip Lock Sandwich Bags, Solid Color Pocket Folder with Brads



LADIES: BUNKO NIGHT & BIBLE STUDY

- Please join us on Monday, Aug. 16th, at 7 PM at the home of Mindi Sanders for Bunko Night! A great night of fun & fellowship!
- Sign up at the Resource Center
- Kick off is Monday, Sept 13, at the Greatwood Rec Center
- 7-9 pm every other Mon. through Nov.
- We'll study Cynthia Heald's book, Becoming a Woman of Excellence, as we explore what it means to be a woman after God's heart

