



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC 3 Key Life Lessons from Joshua

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THEME Life Lessons from Bible Characters

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As we approach the end of Times, we are reminded that the challenging situations in the world will remain, lawlessness will increase and many as a result will fall away. Considering this, we are to glean important lessons from the life of Joshua with the intent to finish well as we navigate through today's perilous end- times.

3 KEY LIFE LESSONS FROM JOSHUA TO FINISH WELL

1. Receive the wisdom of God through His people

Wisdom resides in the body of Christ, and Joshua was receptive to the wisdom and guidance of people in authority and open to learning from life experiences, both failures and successes.

a) Have a "mentor-life coach-discipler"

Joshua had Moses to journey with him, pray for him (Deu 34:9), encourage and strengthen him (Deu 1:38, Deu 3:28). He also stood before Eleazar the priest who inquired of the Lord to obtain decisions (Num 27:18-21). As a result, he was able to model after the spiritual mentors God had placed in his life.

b) Have such people who can speak into our lives

We observed in the bible that prominent bible characters had a spiritual mentor who could speak into their lives. Moses guided Joshua, Elijah spoke into Elisha's life, Mordecai advised Esther and Paul mentored Timothy. We are thus encouraged to find mentors who can value add to our lives, as well as to take up the mantle of the mentor in our families and community (2 Tim 2:2).

c) The source of God's wisdom is from the Holy Spirit

It is important to remember that the source of God's wisdom is from the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3). The Spirit of the Lord is the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding (Isaiah 11:2) and wisdom means having a sound mind (1 Tim 1:7) which also seeks to prayerfully decide and plan according to God's will.

d) Be diligent to always seek His wisdom

We are to walk circumspectly and to understand the will of God. Joshua had his fair shares of failures, but he learnt from them.

- **Dealing with failures**

The Battle of Ai was linked to an indirect disobedience (sin of Achan) to God's commandment and the Gibeonite Deception was a negligence in asking counsel of the Lord for significant decisions during his leadership of the Israelites into the Promised Land. We are thus reminded to not give the devil an open door into our lives through wilful commitment of sin as well as a complacent attitude towards seeking God's counsel. In the event, if we fail in these areas, we are to ask God for forgiveness of our sins through the cleansing blood of Christ (1 John 1:9).

- **Guarding disappointment with God & Handling Stress, Anxieties and Fears**

We are to guard ourselves from hardness of heart and spiritual blindness when we face disappointments in life. We are to handle the stress, anxieties, and fears in life by constantly building our altar of thanksgiving and praise.

- **BBTC Core Values**

Our BBTC values serve also as spiritual principles to guide us in our walk with God and the body of Christ. We are to pay specific attention to areas of our lives which seek to distract us from God, His Word, and the Holy Spirit, as well as to endeavour to be intimate with God and to live in unity with others.

2. Refresh your worship to go after the Presence of God

- **Joshua observed, studied Moses who went after the Presence of God**

Joshua was a God -seeker. He shadowed Moses when God spoke to Moses face to face (Exo 33:9-11), but he also showed his earnest desire for God when he lingered in God's presence even after Moses had left the Tent of Meeting. These are evidence of his emulation of Moses to seek God's presence as well as his own desire to know God personally.

- a) **Separate to God as true worshipper always**

Joshua also encountered Christ himself (Jos 5:13), where he was instructed to take off his sandals for the presence of God had made his surroundings Holy. As such, we are reminded to live a life separate from the World and separate to God characterized by true worship (Jn 4:23). This is shown in our intentional decision to worship God with thanksgiving and praise, to be guided by His Word and Spirit, to stand righteous before God through the blood of Christ and to cast all our cares on God. The resultant effect will be that we will be able to usher His presence into any situation transforming the spiritual atmosphere of an ordinary moment into a divine encounter.

- **The ultimate act of worship is surrender-obedience**

Eventually, we observe that Joshua succeeds on two occasions (Crossing of River Jordan and Conquest of Jericho), because he had learnt to follow God's instructions without reservation. We also observe that it is through Joshua's whole-hearted obedience in following God's instructions in the natural (marching around Jericho seven times and ending with a loud shout) that enabled him to experience God's provision of victory (the crumbling of the walls of Jericho) in the supernatural (Jos 6).

- b) **As we pursue the Presence of God, we will be transformed.**

Just like Joshua, when we begin to spend time in God's presence, we will be changed into His image (2 Cor 3:17-18), grow in faith, and receive grace upon grace. The time in His presence will enable us to be refreshed, recharged, rejuvenated, re-booted, reinvigorated, renewed, and revived. Indeed, the worship of God is the best healing balm for the hits and hurts of ministry and life.

3. Remain rooted to the Word to prosper

A key characteristic of Joshua's life was his tenacity in remaining grounded in God's word through daily meditation, application, and confession (Jos 1:8). He was conscientious in ensuring all that which God had commanded through Moses would be written, read out to the Israelites, and ultimately carried out in His life. Therefore, God's presence and favour was undeniably with Joshua when the Lord listened to him (Jos 10:8-14) and miraculously stopped time for a full day, so that Israel could avenge itself on its enemies.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Joshua finished well (Jos 1:5, Jos 4:14, Jos 24:31). We are encouraged to reflect and examine our lives. Are we living our lives so that we will be able to finish well? Do we intend to thrive or just survive the current crisis? How are we responding to the stress, anxieties, and fears in our lives? How are we dealing with the failures and mistakes in our lives? Have we been pursuing God or allowed distractions to crowd Him out of our lives? Are we in regular fellowship and communion with people in our cells (body life), the church or the Kingdom of God? Do we believe that God's word and promises are personal and real to us? The objective of these reflection questions is to help us take stock of our lives, so that we can contend with and build up our faith in God, just like Joshua.

QUESTIONS

1. In our walk with Christ, it is helpful to have a mentor-life coach-discipler in our lives who can speak into our lives and walk with us. Do you have such a person in your life that fulfills this role? How has that person helped you in your journey?

2. Joshua had 2 significant failures in his life after his victory in the battle of Jericho (Joshua 7:11-12, 9:14). Like Joshua, we will also experience failures and disappointments in life. How can we guard against disappointment with God? (2 Corinthians 4:1)

3. Joshua finished well (Jos 1:5). The life of Joshua should inspire us to recalibrate our lives so that we will also finish well like him. Reflect on the sermon and questions posed in the conclusion. How is your life planned and lived such that you will finish well like Joshua? You may refer also to the "Am I Finishing Well Reflection Checklist" for a more detailed reflection.

Finishing Well Reflection Checklist

Based on Sermon: 3 Key Life Lessons from Joshua (Sep 2021, BBTC)



1. Receive the Wisdom of God through His people

- ☐ Do I have a “mentor-life coach-discipler”?

Name: _____ Frequency of meeting: _____

- ☐ Do I have people in cell or church who can speak into my life?

Spiritual Walk: _____ Family: _____ Career: _____ Others: _____

- ☐ Do I pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide me in all my decisions?

- ☐ Are there areas in my life which I have failed or made mistakes?

If yes, what are they? _____

- ☐ Have I sought God forgiveness over these areas?

☐ Yes ☐ No. Why? _____

- ☐ Have I learnt from these experiences?

One lesson I have learnt: _____

- ☐ Are there disappointments in my life?

☐ Is my heart hardened?

☐ Have I dealt with these disappointments?

- ☐ Are there stress, anxieties, and fears (S.A.F.) in my life?

☐ Have I built my altar of thanksgiving and praise?

☐ Do I know how to handle stress, anxieties, and fear?

Stress: Phi 4:13, Neh 8:10, Ps 16:11, Ps 100:4

Anxieties: Phi 4:6-7, 1 Pet 5:7, Mat 11:28-30

Fears: 1 Jn 4:18, 2 Tim 1:7, Ps 27:1

- ☐ Do I know the BBTC Core Values?

☐ Do I know the meaning behind the BBTC Values?

☐ Have I applied the BBTC Values to my life?

☐ Am I able to explain the BBTC Values to others?

2. Refresh your worship to go after the Presence of God

- ☐ Do I know how to be true worshipper?

☐ Have I made a conscious decision to be a true worshipper always?

- ☐ Do I seek after God?

- ☐ Have you lived a life that is separate from the World?

☐ Are there areas that require greater surrender? Areas: _____

- ☐ Have you lived a life that is set apart for God?

☐ Are there areas in my life which require greater surrender and obedience? Areas: _____

- ☐ Do I know how to deal with the hits and hurts of ministry and life?

☐ Am I able to worship God when faced with difficult times?

☐ Have I experienced times of refreshment/ rejuvenation during worship in difficult times?

3. Remain rooted to the Word to prosper

- ☐ Am I grounded in the Word of God daily?
 - ☐ Do I read His Word?
 - ☐ Do I meditate on His Word?
 - ☐ Do I apply His Word?
 - ☐ Do I confess His Word?
 - ☐ Do I remember/memorize His Word?
- ☐ In times of difficulty, do I know His Word and promises enough to hold on to them?
 - ☐ Do I pray His Word and remind God of His promises?
 - ☐ Do I claim His promises over my difficult situations?

Conclusion: Am I living to finish well?

- ☐ Am I conscientiously living my life so that I can finish well?

My Reflection

My Mentor/Coach/Cell's Encouragement

My Name: _____ My Cell and Cluster: _____ My Mentor: _____

Date of reflection: _____

Note:

This is a non-exhaustive reflection checklist which serves as a guide to our reflection of the questions posed in the sermon. You may consider sharing with your mentor, coach or cell who can pray and guide you in your spiritual growth.

BBTC Value: No condemnation, no competition, no comparison. Just encouragement.