

“Walk the Line ~ Joshua 1” [9.2.07]

Former Philippine 1st Lady ~ Imelda Marcos was reported to have owned well over 3,000 pairs of shoes; @ death the final tally was only (1,060 pairs).

So, how many [different types of shoes] do you wear in a (7) day period?

As for me ~ I have a several pairs of shoes that are [uniquely fitted] for my feet that I wear to assist me in the challenges I'm blessed to face each week:

They include:

- Work shoes ≈ actually get a lot of use during the course of my work week;
- Soccer cleats ≈ I bring these out twice a week as I assist coaching my daughter's 2nd grade soccer team [Renegades]
- Sunday shoes ≈ I begin putting these shoes on about Tuesday; and they seldom leave my feet as I prepare to spiritually lead our church family each week!
- Slippers ≈ thankfully, I put these on every evening as I attend to my 1st & primary ministry of being a husband & daddy!

All of us wear shoes that would be difficult for anyone else to wear; each of us [face unique challenges] that make us question:

- How will we possibly be successful & prosper in the midst of life's constant challenges?
- Exactly what will you count on; or better yet who will you count on?
 - Yourself? Your spouse? Your best friend? Your employer?
 - How will you face your daily challenges?
 - Avoid them @ all cost; or go around them?
 - {Maybe} you will bend the rules a little or just possibly take another shortcut?

Or possibly, you will decide to face your challenges differently this week by “Walking the Line,” doing it God's way!

[Next several weeks] we will study about a man who learned to “Walk the Line,” & face his daily demands with God's help!

Let's Pray [help us to trust You in getting us through life's challenges]

- I. Joshua 1: 1 – 5 (Joshua's charge)
 - A. (R) Joshua 1: 1 or p. 168 in pew Bibles
 1. v. 1 “After the death of Moses the Lord's servant,”
 2. This one phrase is power – packed = tremendous loss for the Israelites!
 - a. Moses was arguably the [greatest Jewish leader] in the history of Israel!

- b. Led the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt; was a prophet, author & lawgiver; recorder of the 10 Commandments.
 - c. [Listen to how] the Bible remembers his leadership;
 - 1. (R) Deuteronomy 34: 5 – 12 or (1) page to the left
 - 2. (R) Numbers 12: 3; vv 6 – 8 or p. 115 in pew Bible
 - 3. [Just listen] Hebrews 11: 24 - 27
- B. (R) Joshua 1: 1 – 2 (Moses assistant = BIG shoes to fill)
1. Bible is [full of examples] of individuals who did great things for God & left huge shoes to fill:
 - a. BIG shoes like = my buddy's 16 – 17 size boots (impossible for me to wear without God's help!)
 - b. Saul [Israel's 1st king ~ 7 ft. tall]; would be followed by a less tall man (5'8) who was just right ☺ he couldn't even wear Saul's armor.
 - c. Prophet Elijah ministry on earth eventually came to end; God's faithful servant Elisha took over the prophetic mantel.
 - d. Paul's anointed ministry finally ended @ his execution; before he died he had raised up several godly apprentices such as Timothy to carry out his ministry unto God!

1st major point of Joshua is that; God's purposes do not change.
but PEOPLE CHANGE!

Transition is a naturally part of the ebb & flow of life - - God helps us get through!

2. As Moses assistant...Joshua had seen quite a bit ≈ life's daily demands & challenges are God's way of training us to be OBEDIENT; He saw...
 - a. He saw doubt enter the hearts of the people when he came back from spying out the land with the (12) other spies; mention of giants!
 - b. He saw the people regress to worshipping a golden calf while he and Moses had been on Mt. Sinai to receive the "10 Commandments."

Do you think Joshua ever had doubts as he was commissioned to lead the great nation of Israel? [u bets ya!]
How would he [ever have the strength] to face these challenges?

- C. (R) Joshua 1: 3 – 5
1. How would he be successful - - that wasn't his job;
 2. Do you trust this verse; it will change your approach to facing difficulty.
 3. re(R) v 5

II. Joshua 1: 6 – 9 (Joshua's marching orders)

A. (R) Joshua 1: 6 – 7a

1. Do you think Joshua felt exceptionally “strong & courageous?”
 - a. Does he strike you as someone who has led a ‘charmed existence;’ with very little adversity?
 - b. This is not the bio description on Joshua...remember he had just witnessed the greatest leader in Hebrew history punished for striking the rock in the wilderness out of anger and not allowed to enter into the land of Canaan [Promised Land]

Joshua understood that he had severe limitations;
BUT he also had an amazing vantage point - - He knew God = no limitations!

[By ourselves] we all have severe limitations!

2. [insert] Self-fulfilling Prophecies

We either trust in ourselves or in God when we face life’s challenges!

B. (R) vv 7b – 8 [Divine formula for success]

1. 1st Step = “...be careful to OBEY”
 - a. 2nd major point of Joshua; it’s not how much scripture you know; but how much scripture you OBEY that’s important!
 - b. (R) James 1: 22 – 25 or p. 931 in pew Bible
2. Obedience unlocks God’s power!
 - i. God waits for you to act 1st!
 - ii. Don’t wait to feel powerful or confident; move ahead in your weakness doing the right thing in spite of your fears & feelings.

C. Satan’s strategy

1. The enemy will tempt you to stop short of fully obeying God!
2. Satan would like you to believe that ½ hearted obedience is good enough.
3. [Remember] these things about our enemy ~ Satan
 - a. 1st, he always contradicts Scripture
 - i. If your desire is [the opposite] of a specific biblical directive then it is not God speaking!
 - ii. For example...Bible says, “Do not commit adultery.” You can know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is not leading you to [break a vow to your spouse] simply because you are convinced that God does not want you to deny your true feelings for someone else or live unhappily in your marriage.
 - iii. Enemy attempts to confuse @ every turn ☹
 - b. 2nd, Satan justifies & excuses sin
 - i. God will lead you to repentance
 - ii. Satan would like you to avoid admittance of guilt @ all costs

Our 1st step is simply to OBEY;

D. 2nd Step = "Study this Book of Instruction continually."

1. The Israelites had a Book of Instructions from God; [so do we!]
2. Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth
3. [insert] C.S. Lewis quote

God's Word is our manual of instruction for protecting ourselves from the attacks of the enemy!

WRCC is a simple Bible believing church;
part of our God-given mission is to build mature disciples!

E. Discipleship Strategy for Fall of 07'

1. (3) tremendous Bible study opportunities on Sunday morning
 - a. Book of Isaiah = Neil Horn
 - b. Beginnings for new believers by Discipleship Team
 - c. Irresistible Evangelism = Derek Lynas
2. Small Groups - - spiritual growth happens best in the context of small group communities; it's not just another good idea - - I believe its essential for the growth of every believer after almost 25 years of ministry!
 - Next Sunday night @ 6:30 pm {Fusion} will be a great night to get connected to a meaningful small group not only studies – creates wonderful relationships – but will also give you a 1st hand opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus!
3. Men's Ministry begins on [9.15] @ 7:00 on Saturday's [Ephesians]
4. Women's Bible studies begin the week of September 9th;
 - Gospel of John inductive study
 - (3) other electives as well!

We believe the STUDY of God's Word is only second to OBEYING what we have already learned!
[Sign up today]

F. (R) Joshua 1: 9

1. [sound familiar] = r(R) v 5
2. What gives me courage when I faced with challenges that are bigger than me; I remember how God kept every one of His promises in the book of Joshua
3. [did you know] NASA actually verifies the validity of book of Joshua!
 - [insert] NASA story!

Close:

I'm still thinking about the shoes I wear during the week; I have to admit there is one pair of shoes in history that were much to big for me to ever wear!

Jesus' sandals "Walked the line" of Calvary; so that I did not have too!