

## **Joshua 1:10-18—Leaders and the Dominion Mandate of 2019**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: No army survives with great generals and poor soldiers. And no army survives with great soldiers and poor generals. And it is no different for the Lord's army. So on this New Year's Day of 2019, let God remind us of the need of leaders and laity to work together to advance the kingdom.

Our headings are:

**Leaders, obey the Dominion Mandate**

**Laity, obey the Dominion Mandate**

Our goals are: That you will **understand that the dominion mandate continues, and as children reconciled to God through the Son, that you will move to fulfil the dominion mandate.**

**Leaders, obey the Dominion Mandate**

10 Then Joshua **commanded the officers** of the people, saying, 11 "Pass through the camp and **command the people**, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in **to possess the land** which the LORD your **God is giving** you to possess.'"

**1. Joshua, seeing the pressing need of the time to cross the Jordan River and enter into**

**Canaan, urged his people to be diligent with the work the Lord had called them to do.**

**A good nickname for Joshua would have been No-Delay Joshua.** He was not a procrastinator. The covenant demands a response...a response of obedience, an obedience that stems from faith. He knew his God...he had faith in God...and when God told him to move, he moved. **He did not think of the complexities of crossing the Jordan.** He did not worry about the height of the water which was at flood stage. He did not worry about the children or the animals...or the rafts he needed to build. He knew in whom he believed. He knew that **when God gave a task, he always gave the tools to do it.**

**Psalm 52:6** The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, 7 "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness." 8 But I am like a **green olive tree in the house of God**; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.

**2. Joshua organized police officers with assigned tasks to help the people prepare to take possession of Canaan.**

A good leader delegates responsibilities. In delegating, he showed that he did not want to make the same mistake Moses made. **He learned from Moses' mistake** – trying to do everything himself. This is what God wanted him to do.

**3. Joshua gave a clear message to the people through his officers. (Unclear messages are deadly.)**

**a. The message: Prepare food to enter and conquer the land after 3 days.** What soldier

can fight without food? Achievement in life is contingent upon methodical preparation, to do as you are told.

**b. Joshua's message was based on God's revealed truth.** This command might have seemed silly to the people of God in light of the river in front of them, **but Joshua operated from obedience to God.** He stated unequivocally that in 3 days God would lead his people across the Jordan and give them the Land of Canaan.

**c. Joshua knew that revealed truth strengthens faith.**

**d. If the people refused to listen to the instruction and prepare, then it would be their own fault!**

12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, 13 "**Remember the word** which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God **is giving** you rest and is **giving you this land.**' 14 "Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them, 15 "until the LORD has given **your brethren rest**, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall **return to the land** of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

**4. Joshua commanded the soldier-age men from Reuben, Gad, and 1/2 of Manasseh who were given land east of the Jordan to cross the Jordan to help the other 9 1/2 tribes fight to capture Canaan.**

On the east side of the Jordan where the 2 1/2 tribes were, the enemy was already defeated. In true unity of the brotherhood, the 2 1/2 tribes were instructed to help their fellow brothers. This action destroys the modern idea of individualism. This is why all the members made a commitment to Isabel when she was baptized.

**The response of the 2 1/2 tribes had to be based on faith in Jehovah,** faith that God would keep their wives, children, and the elderly when they went across the Jordan to fight. **Earlier the parents of these people were ready to kill Moses...ready to return to Egypt...ready to mix with the pagan nations...ready to worship idols.** **But now they were called to stand behind this Messiah-like figure** and go out and capture the land...root out evil...and establish the kingdom of God. They did not complain like their fathers. Keep in mind that most of these men were not even circumcised, but how far better they were spiritually than those who were circumcised and yet died in the desert.

**The response of the 2 1/2 tribes evidenced self-denial.** (This is the result of faith.) Their response showed that they put the desire of others above their own desires. It would have been easy to say: "We are okay, now fend for yourself." But they understood their covenant responsibility to each other...

## Lessons:

**a. Leaders, must not to be afraid of anything...not terrorism...not sickness...not death...not the future...for God is greater than any troubles...and you, like Joshua, are his child through Jesus.** Lead God's people to conquer the world! Lead God's people boldly in your family. Don't be afraid of the state. Don't be afraid of pressures from relatives. Don't compromise because others criticize your church...telling you that it is too small...or too old-fashioned.

**b. Leaders, speak the truth clearly to those in your care and remove their blood from off of your shoulder.** Those who speak eloquently, but without substance, hinder the dominion mandate. When you speak the truth clearly the kingdom is going to advance... **When you are equipped with a solid trust in Jehovah then you will use the Word of God as your weapon!** If you remain silent, the kingdom will die.

**c. Leaders must teach of the priority of the kingdom instead of promoting individualism.**

**d. Leaders must be willing to work harder because your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.** Do not live on flowery beds of ease! The welfare of others is above your own. Are you rich with money? Use your wealth to help poor Christians. Are you a comforter? Speak God's comforts to those who struggle and suffer. Are you a good orator? Be a lawyer to speak up for Christian causes. **Do not sit on your laurels.** This is what got David into trouble. When he should have been capturing the land for God's honor, his eyes were wandering at home. Look at how that hurt him, hurt Uriah, Bathsheba, his son, Joab, and his whole family and nation. He should have read Psalm 133. Indeed, **lack of busy-ness causes great troubles.**

## **Laity, obey the Dominion Mandate**

16 So they answered Joshua, saying, "**All that you command us we will do,** and **wherever you send us we will go.** 17 "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. **Only the LORD your God be with you,** as He was with Moses.

### **1. The people responded to Joshua with a promise to support him in his work and to obey his command without question.**

(Someone had a son who was told to put his head on the pillow and he promptly stood on his head with his head on the pillow. That was not unquestioned obedience. That was playing games.) These men were committed to Joshua's command.

### **2. These people then showed their unquestioned obedience – even when asked to do something hard.**

How could all those people cross the Jordan in one day? How could they cross the Jordan River in flood stage? How could they get tens of thousands of rafts for them and all their animals? And their children? Where would they get all that food? **But because these men believed that Joshua was speaking the Word of God, they went out in faith to do what**

**Joshua said.** Wouldn't it have been a hard thing to tell tired people to get ready for battle? Yet, they did.

### **3. These people then prayed for Joshua, their leader.**

They knew of God's call to pray for those in authority. And they knew they had to appear before God and give an account for how they treated their leader.

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

18 "**Whoever rebels against your command** and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, **shall be put to death.** Only be strong and of good courage."

### **4. Then the people made a stronger commitment to Joshua: They threatened death to anyone who disregarded Joshua's command.**

Was this a good law? **Yes. Israel was about to cross over the Jordan and enter a foreign country in a war.** In war, military discipline is necessary. So this was a good law.

### **5. And the men encouraged Joshua to be strong and brave as he led the people of God.**

### **6. Lessons:**

**a. Support your leaders.** When the members support the elders and pastor it brings great joy to them and the members are rewarded! When a mother supports the father as they raise covenant children both have joy as they watch their children grow! Being a leader is tough but you can bring them joy!

**b. How do you support the leaders? Pray for us. How often do you pray for me?** Do you pray for your elders and deacon? We really need God's help! Don't fail us! **You are called to swear allegiance to Jesus and to pray to him for us.** And fight. Fight because you are in the Lord's army. Fight for the King of kings personally. **Fight against sin in your life. Fight false ideas and teaching** in the world. **Commit yourself to praying more and fighting better in 2019.**

**c. When the church is strict and holds to God's law with zeal will she be able to conquer** the world for Jesus Christ. This is God's command to the church. This is the Dominion Mandate! Pray that your preacher holds to and faithfully proclaims truth.

**d. This law threatened death for rebellion against Joshua, who was a picture of Jesus Christ.** So whoever refuses to submit to the words of Jesus Christ will lay under his condemnation – an eternal condemnation

### **Conclusion:**

**Leaders and Laity had to fulfill their responsibilities, supporting each other in their**

**responsibilities, in order to fulfill the Biblical mandate of conquering Canaan.** And they did, mostly. They conquered most of Canaan.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. The Christian task is the same, to conquer the world for Jesus, except that we have more gifts.** We have the **full Word of God**, so our faith can be stronger. We have a **fullness of the Holy Spirit**. We **know what to do** and we have the **ability to do it**.

**2. As leaders in the home, church, school, and government, don't do what you like.** Do what God commands. This is what will advance his kingdom cause. You must take every foolish thought captive. You must destroy every foolish argument. You must eradicate evil in high places. You must do this through the Word and Spirit. You are saved. You must now conquer.

**3. As the people of God, support the work of the leaders in the home, church, school, and government.** Help this church to grow. Maybe it time we stop being a mission church...and time to be an organized church. Will you work for this?

Finally, either you are for Christ and will work of his glory, or you are against Christ and you will perish by his justice. You can be sure that you will not be destroyed by his justice if you call upon him for mercy. He freely offers his life and death as a substitute for you. I plead with you to accept his free offer.