

(Joshua 23)
“Not One Word Has Failed”

~ INTRO ~

(Joshua 21:45)

“Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken...”

TODAY WE COME TO A SPECIAL MOMENT...

- As we celebrate 15-ys of what God has done for us!

LOOKING BACK...

- We can see that God has been faithful...
 - Thru all the hurdles & obstacles we've encountered.
 - He's carried us thru!

WE ALSO...

- Take this day to look ahead.
 - Because we recognize... there's still more work to be done.
 - More lives / families / and salvations to come.
 - More hurting people needing help!

AND THIS IS WHAT WE'RE ENCOURAGED WITH...

- *God's faithfulness in the past...*
 - *Gives us courage to trust Him with our future.*

~ STUDY ~

Joshua is nearing the end of his life.

- The conquest is largely behind them / the land has been divided /
 - And Joshua gathers Israel's leaders for one final challenge:
 - *Remember what God has done & remain faithful to Him.*

IDEA #1 – REMEMBERING WHAT GOD HAS DONE: (vv.1-5)

“You have seen all that the LORD your God has done...” — (v.3a)

Joshua wanted Israel to remember...

- All that God had done for them.
 - He didn't want them to slip into complacency...
 - While being surrounded by victories.

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Joshua wasn't asking them to believe something they had never experienced.

- He was asking them to remember what they had already seen:
- 1) The Jordan river taught them God can make a way where there isn't one.
- 2) Jericho taught them God's ways don't always make sense to us—but obedience matters to Him.
- 3) Ai taught them that failure doesn't have to be final.
- 4) The long conquest taught them that God's promises don't eliminate the need for perseverance.

HERE'S THE POINT:

- *Their history with God was the evidence of His faithfulness.*

CHURCH...

- Some of the things that once tested our faith...
 - Now strengthen our faith—because we know what God did.

Joshua made sure they understood who gets all the credit:

- *“For the LORD your God is He who has fought for you.” (v.3b)*

THIS RINGS TRUE FOR US TOO.

- We're not celebrating what we've accomplished for God.
 - **We're celebrating what God has done for us.**
- We're making known His deeds for His glory.

IDEA #2 – KEEP MOVING FORWARD: (vv.5-11)

There was still land to possess.

God had done tremendous things...

- But Joshua wasn't calling them to live in...
 - The memories of yesterday's conquest.
- God's faithfulness yesterday...
 - Was supposed to give them courage for tomorrow's battles.

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That's what fifteen years should give us—***faith, not just memories.***

JOSHUA GAVE THE LEADERS...

- Three actions to lead with:
 - (v.6) hold tightly to God's Word.
 - (v.7) don't compromise with the culture around you.
 - (v.11) keep loving the Lord.

CHURCH...

- The greatest danger after 15-yrs. isn't that God will become less faithful.
 - It's that we could become less faithful.

Success creates its own spiritual dangers.

Sometimes we seek God desperately when we're fighting for territory...

- AND then we become comfortable once we're living in it.

Joshua says... **Don't do that.**

- Keep obeying His Word.
- Keep yourselves from compromise.
- Keep loving the Lord.

WHY?

Because the goal isn't simply to have a church that survives another 15-yrs.

- The goal is to remain faithful to Jesus until He calls us home.

IDEA #3 – TRUST GOD BECAUSE HE'S NEVER FAILED: (vv.12-14)

(v.14)

“You know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed...”

Joshua isn't giving them a theory about God's faithfulness.

- They lived it.
 - And after 15 years of ministry it's not theory for you either.

There have been victories and disappointments.

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- People have come and gone.
- Some prayers were answered exactly as hoped... others weren't.

There were seasons where the future wasn't clear.

- But we're still standing 15-yrs. later...
 - **Because God has been faithful to us!**

NOW...

- God's faithfulness isn't permission for us to become comfortable.
 - It's an invitation for us to trust Him again.

“Will you trust God's faithfulness with what comes next?”

- There's still ministry ahead of us...
 - People to reach / families to strengthen / hurting people to help...
 - AND another generation to reach with the Gospel.

~ IN CLOSING ~

We remember what God has done.

- We remain faithful to what God has called us to do.
 - We trust Him for what we haven't seen yet.

AND... **why can we trust Him...** with what we haven't seen yet?

- **Because** after fifteen years... we can say what Joshua said:
 - *“Not one word has failed.”*

Fifteen years ago there were answers to prayers we hadn't yet seen...

- Battles we hadn't yet fought...
 - People we hadn't met yet...
 - And stories God hadn't written yet.

Today, we can look back and say, ***“God has been faithful.”***

And as we look toward whatever comes next...

- Our confidence isn't that we know the future.
 - Our confidence is that we know the God who goes before us.