

God Blesses The Man

Joshua 1:5-7



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Joshua 1:5-8 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, [so] I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. **(6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.** (7) Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it [to] the right hand or [to] the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. **(8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

“According to the Center for Disease Control, Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services and the Bureau of the Census, the 30 percent of children who live apart from their fathers will account for 63 percent of teen suicides, 70 percent of juveniles in state-operated institutions, 71 percent of high-school dropouts, 75 percent of children in chemical-abuse centers, 80 percent of rapists, 85 percent of youths in prison, 85 percent of children who exhibit behavioral disorders, and 90 percent of homeless and runaway children. In fact, children born to unwed mothers are ten times more likely to live in poverty as children with fathers in the home.”
(Patriot Post)

What makes a great man and a great father? If you ask Hollywood its opinion it will tell you that a great man is person who has no opinion, someone who willingly "goes with the tide" of popular opinion. A "real man" has no stance outside of satisfying all around him. A "real man" will jump to, and quickly agree to anything told him. Is it any wonder that post-modernism is intolerant of anything Biblical? The world's idea of a "real man" is not God's idea of a "real man".

I know it's politically incorrect to say so, but if we're going to define "real manhood" we need to go back to the Bible and see what God has to say. It is significant that God defines Himself as "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). These are masculine terms, mannish terms, regardless as to what political correctness has to say. In the creation account we see that God considered man and woman to be of equal value:

Genesis 1:27 So **God created man in his [own] image, in the image of God created he him;** male and female created he them.

Man was created first in the image of God, and woman was created from man's side. Man was designed by God to be the leader in that wonderful relationship we call "marriage and family". The wife, precious and beloved, is "**bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**" (**Genesis 2:23**). She is the mother of our children. Our Lord Jesus Christ did not consider the creation account of Genesis as *so much fairytale*, but said:

Matthew 19:4 And **he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female,**

God created us **male and female**. Man was created first, woman from man. Man was designed to be the leader in the family. Satan, seeking to overthrow God's creation, ignored man and approached woman. Satan questioned God's commands by asking the woman "**Yea, hath God said ye shall not eat of it?**" (**Genesis 3:3**). Satan told the woman "**You shall not surely die**" (**Genesis 3:4**). He deceived the woman. Yet the greatest tragedy of our first parents fall from God is found in these words:

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, and that it [was] pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make [one] wise, **she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

God's directive rule as well as His creative design was ignored. His direction in law was "**Do not eat the fruit of this tree**". His direction in design was "**Adam, you are to lead your family**". Adam's response to God's decrees was to let Eve lead, and then to follow her lead in disobedience. This present darkness we live in is a testimony to Adam's folly.

God blesses the man who is obedient to His decree. In

fact, God blesses the family and the nation through men who are faithful to Him. God blessed Israel's family because **Joseph** was a faithful father. Joseph, though tossed into a pit and unjustly sold into slavery by his brothers, *never took his eyes off of God*. Years later when reunited with his brothers Joseph said:

Genesis 50:20 But **as for you, ye thought evil against me; [but] God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as [it is] this day, to save much people alive.**

Joseph's faithfulness blessed his family by planting it in Egypt to grow. Years later another faithful man named **Moses** led a much blessed Israel out of captivity. Though this was a nation of whiners and complainers two men - **Moses and Joshua** - stood out as exceptional men of God. God blessed Moses. Though Moses failed God at **Meribah (Numbers 20:12)** for most of his life he honored God, and God honored Israel for his sake. When Moses failed God the Lord transferred the leadership of His people Israel into **Joshua's** hand. The text we read today was God's charge to Joshua - and God's promise. The Lord told him "If you will obediently follow Me as you lead this people I will prosper you".

Men, you may not be in charge of God's Israel, but you are in charge somewhere. If you are in a family and are married to a wife you are in charge of that family. You are the head of that household, and, like Joshua, are expected by God your Creator to lead that family in His paths. If you have children you are to oversee them and to be an example to them. Lead by example. You will

never be a blessing to your family until you begin to live your life according to God's directive.

Great Men Live Their Lives In The Shadow Of The Heavenly Father

FOCAL Joshua 1:5-6 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: **as I was with Moses, [so] I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.** (6) Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which **I swear unto their fathers to give them.**

Joshua had a terrible and great task before him. Moses, the Great Prophet, had failed God at Meribah. It was inconceivable but for some reason - perhaps because he was just genuinely *fed up* with the whining of these people - Moses **struck the Rock**. God told him "**speak to the Rock, and water shall come out of it**", but Moses in a fit of anger **struck the Rock**. He disobeyed the direct command of God. Now God has said that Moses will not lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. "**Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**" (**Proverbs 16:18**) Just as the mercury in a barometer rises to signal the oncoming storm, pride in self rises just before man falls. Of all the sins, pride is the most groundless, for there is **none righteous before our holy God.**

Pride is the firstborn son of hell. Pride changed the

Chief Angel Lucifer into the Chief Devil Satan. Pride caused the Lord to rebuke the Chief Apostle, saying to Peter:

Mark 8:33 ... Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

and Pride, ugly and useless thing that it is, caused Moses to stand in the place of God and lose the blessing of Canaan when he said:

Numbers 20:10 ... Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

God alone brings water from the Rock. God alone is the **Rock of our salvation (2 Samuel 22:47)**. Moses forgot that great truth, and took unto himself the glory of God. So God took Moses' blessing away. The man that Joshua had followed for forty long years was dead. And then God spoke these words to Joshua:

Joshua 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, [even] to the children of Israel.

Can you imagine the thoughts passing through Joshua's mind? "If Moses couldn't do it, how can I hope to do it? If Moses broke down, won't I break down too? I

must lead this great group of whiny people across the Jordan and into a land to conquer it. Can we do it? Am I up to it?" If you've never had a panic attack you've been blessed. I have a feeling that Joshua came close to a panic attack that day. I know I would have. Yet God quickly went on to say:

FOCAL Joshua 1:5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, [so] I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

If you want to be powerful and successful men in this life then you must learn to live your lives in the *shadow of the Almighty*.

Psalms 91:1-2 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (2) I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

While Moses remembered Who was God he was blessed - but when he forgot that great truth he brought cursing on himself. **You must know Who is God - then submit to Him.**

Submitting your life to the wrong god is *very dangerous* - and very *self defeating*.

For instance, if your God is money then this is what you will devote your life to. While you're making money you'll feel that you're a great man. But what happens when you lose your money? Jesus said:

Matthew 6:24 "No one can be a slave of two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves of God and of money."^{HCSB}

Who is your God? If your God is money then you will only be as strong as you are rich. Money is a perishable and a constantly dwindling resource. The more you have, the more you spend. It consumes the soul. Jesus said that **"it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."** (Matthew 19:24). Money makes a poor god!

The *strength of my hands* is also a poor god - yet many men try to follow this god. If you put your trust in your own strength you are again putting your faith in a *dwindling resource*. The Psalmist said:

Psalms 118:8-9 [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. (9) [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Your trust needs to be in God. As Joshua prepared to enter the Promised Land - a land filled with enemies - he

needed to know that he had God's blessing. God told Joshua **"I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee"**. Joshua knew that the Source of his power was God.

When the source of your power is your ability to make bricks, then you will never be greater than the slave of the Egyptian.

But if your eyes and your hearts turn Godward, trusting Him, believing Him no matter what, then you can be blessed and a blessing in this life. David knew in Whom he believed, trusted God, and was able to kill Goliath. Joshua knew in Whom he believed, trusted God, and was able to guide Israel into the Promised Land. Success or failure in this life is not in your hands, but in His hands.

Great Men Obey Their Heavenly Father

FOCAL Joshua 1:7 **Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it [to] the right hand or [to] the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.**

You cannot achieve great things as a man unless you are obedient to your Heavenly Father. God told Joshua **"you be careful to do exactly what I tell you to do. Do not walk to the left of what I have said, nor should you walk to the right of My directives. Do exactly what I say and you will prosper"**.

There are too many people in our world today who want to (1) be advisors to God, or else (2) want to be God. May I say that the *position of God is already filled*. If you want to be blessed by God, you need to *do what He has said*.

God blesses the man who does what He says! Under Joshua's leadership Israel conquered six nations and defeated thirty one kings (Josh. 11:18-23; 12:24).

Listen My Beloved: When a farmer finds a seed that produces a high yield and a good cash crop, he would be foolish to use any other seed. The wise man listens to God and God alone. **He turns not to the right hand** - that is, he does *not add to the command of God*. There are many in Christendom who love to add to the Word of God. How foolish!

It is as useless to add to God's Word as it is to pour a cup of water into the ocean and say "Look at what I've added", or to put a candle on the surface of the sun and say "Look how much brighter I have made things".

We must not, like the Pharisees of old, add **the tradition of the elders** to the Word of God (**Matthew 15:2**). **"Why do not your disciples wash their hands before eating bread?"** saith the Pharisees. **"Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"** (**Matthew 15:3**) says the Lord Jesus. To add to God's Word is to court disaster. It is best to remember

that our Lord Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness with but three words: **"It is written"**. If it is not written, do not add to His Word!

Yet the wise man also **turns not to the left hand**, taking away from the Word of God. There are times when our Heavenly Father will command us to do things that make not sense. Are we God? Absolutely not! God expects us as men to trust Him, to be childlike in our faith, to believe exactly what He has said. Jesus illustrated this one day when He:

Matthew 18:2-4 ... called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, (3) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Salvation of the soul is only achieved when we trust Him and believe in Him. **"Whatsoever He says, that shall ye do"**. Trust Jesus with your eternal soul, but also trust Him with your temporal life.

The very first thing that God asked Joshua to do was to **lead the children of Israel through the Jordan**. God told Joshua that He was going to *reenact the crossing of the Red Sea - but do it this time at the Jordan*. God told

Joshua to send the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant into the Jordan. The Lord said:

Joshua 3:13 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon a heap.

The water was suppose to part, and Israel would cross the Jordan on dry land. Now Joshua could have debated God. He could have ordered that rafts be built, or that trenches be dug, or dams made, or any one of a number of things. Joshua did none of this. He said "**Priests, get the Ark of the Covenant, and do as God said**". Guess what? God did exactly what He said He was going to do.

Having crossed over on dry land, now God told Joshua that he had to conquer the great walled city **Jericho**. Jericho was ...

"the most important city in the Jordan valley (Numbers 22:1; Numbers 34:15), and the strongest fortress in all the land of Canaan. It was the key to Western Palestine"¹.

This city had to fall before any other part of Canaan

¹ Easton's Bible Dictionary

could be taken. God had to send a message to the Canaanites that the land belonged to Israel, not to them. God wanted everyone to know that *He alone is God, and all others but pretenders to His Throne*. What did God tell Joshua to do?

Joshua 6:3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

Walk around the city with your mighty army *once each day for six days*. As this command was given there may have been many Israelites who thought "How foolish! We're just going to walk around the city? We're not going to build strongholds, nor dig trenches, nor make ladders, or design siege engines?" Yet echoing in Joshua's ears were the words of God,

FOCAL Joshua 1:7 Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: **turn not from it [to] the right hand or [to] the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.**

Do exactly as God has said - obey only Him. Wives, if God has said:

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, **submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.**

Quit debating God's command and do as He has said.

Husbands, if God has said:

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

add not to His Word, but do as He said.

John Adams' diary, 2 June 1778, "The foundation of national morality must be laid in private families... How is it possible that Children can have any just Sense of the sacred Obligations of Morality or Religion if, from their earliest Infancy, they learn their Mothers live in habitual Infidelity to their fathers, and their fathers in as constant Infidelity to their Mothers?"

Give yourselves to your wives wholeheartedly, just as Christ has given Himself to us. Children, if God has said:

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

do as your God has said. Do not depart from Him. It may not make sense, but Beloved, if it is from God just *do it* and you will prosper.

On the seventh day God told Joshua that on the seventh day **seven priests would blow seven trumpets, and that the people would shout, and that the wall of the city would fall down (Joshua 6:4-5)**. Again, this seems

to be a strange request. But He is God - we are not!

Joshua did exactly as God told him to do - and Jericho fell. Joshua's behavior would be a pattern of obedience. Whatever God said, he did. And the Lord honored His promise that **"I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee"**.

Have You Put Your Trust In God?

FOCAL Joshua 1:8 This **book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate** therein day and night, that thou mayest **observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

God has given great promises to men who will trust in Him. Yet many men in this day are not mighty because they do not **meditate** on God's Word, nor do they **do what He has said**. We are not called to rely on the "isms" nor the "ists" of our day: Darwanism, Calvinism, Arminianism, Lutheranism, Sabellianism, Unitarianism, Universalism, abortionist, humanist, or any other human doctrine. We as men are called to **be mighty in our understanding of and our practical application of the Word of God**. We are to **speak the Word, to meditate on the Word**, and to **do what the Word says**. You will do none of this if you have not been saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

The first step in being a real man is to *realize we all need the Savior*. **Joshua knew that, because his name "Joshua" literally means "Jehovah the Savior"**.

Jesus Christ said:

Mark 2:17 ... They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

You must recognize that you are sick before you can ever get well. Have you recognized yourselves to be sinners? This is the first step in salvation. The second step is to realize that God has offered a solution for your fallen state.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Real men recognize they are fallen, and turn to God their Savior for salvation. For whom did Christ die? **He died for the ungodly.**

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

For whom did Christ die? **He died for us. Our God is great in power and in might (Jeremiah 10:6)**. He calls you, dear men, to *be mighty in Him*. Turn to Christ, trust in Him, and He will give you rest.

May God bless your hearts with His Word.

- 1. Fathering must be intentional.**
- 2. Fathering must be patient and loving.**
- 3. Fathering must be spiritual. (H.B. London, Jr)**