

## LIVING A LIFE THAT WILL OUTLIVE YOU

Scripture used: Joshua 5:13-15 (NIV)

### OVERVIEW

We are starting a new sermon series this week called Legacy: Living a Life that Outlives You! This is Part One of the 5-week series, where we introduce the Big Question: "What does it mean to make my mark in life?" Joshua struggled with this very question when he took over as leader of the Israelites after Moses died. Born and raised a slave, Joshua had none of the lineage or education that helped Moses deliver them out of Egypt. He had many reasons to doubt his legitimate place in God's story of redemption. Thank God he finally believed that God had marked his life for greatness, because otherwise the Israelites would not have made it to the Promised Land!

### KEY POINTS

- 1) Each life is a part of God's larger plan for the world. We are all loved by God, and called to a specific purpose in the world. God's mark on us is that purpose. That's why sinning - "missing the mark" - is so destructive. Sin takes us farther away from God and His purpose for us.
- 2) We have a hard time believing that we are worthy of God's attention. Joshua looked at Moses and saw someone who was a true servant of God. He didn't realize that Moses was living his own portion of God's plan, and that God had a different plan for Joshua.
- 3) These "blind spots" are due to two different reasons:
  - We are always comparing our story to the stories of others. Like Joshua, most of us are constantly looking at others. That is the equivalent of weighing ourselves on a broken scale!
  - We are focusing exclusively on our own story. We can also get easily wrapped up in our own story. We jump up and down, shouting "Look at me!" and start to believe that our accomplishments are somehow our own, not God's blessings.
- 4) Our perspective is revealed by the questions we ask. Even after Joshua accepted that he was destined to succeed Moses, he still focused on his own story. His first question to the angel commanding God's armies was "Are you for us or for our enemies?" Joshua 5:13 (NIV). Joshua saw himself at the center of the story, not God. That is why the angel rebuked him, and that rebuke corrected Joshua's attitude.
- 5) These three questions indicate we truly understand our story within God's larger story:
  - "Have I surrendered to God?" Do I still think about myself first, or try to place myself within the larger story? We need to stop trying to control and harness God!
  - "Am I on God's side?" Once we think about God's story, we need to make sure we align with the winning side. This is a never-ending process. We are always being tempted to resist Him.
  - "Am I God's servant?" It's not enough to claim that we serve God. We all need to take concrete steps every day to listen for His voice. And when we hear Him, we need to obey and take action!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Each of us struggles to live accordingly to God's plan for the world. When was the last time you prayed to God to reveal your place in His story?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Like Moses, do you feel like you've been prepared extensively and need to live up to expectations? Or like Joshua, do you feel like you've been unfairly shoved into a story?
- 3) **DO** - For both Moses and Joshua, loyalty to God trumped everything else. The scriptures declared them both to be "servants of the Lord". Pray to God to reveal your purpose in His story. Ask Him to show you the way, and to hear His voice called you a "good and faithful servant"!