

Still More Work to Do

Scriptural Reference: Joshua 13:1-7

Key Verse: When Joshua had grown old, the LORD said to him, “You are now very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over.” (*Joshua 13:1, NIV*)

Life Principle

As we look over our lives, can we honestly say that we have given our all? Allow this lesson to spark the enthusiasm within you to say, “There is still more work I can do”—understanding that God will fulfill His promises.

Introduction

As long as there is breath in your body, God can still use you. Some believe that because they move closer to their twilight years, they are no longer valuable to the vineyard, but we are reminded daily that there are many ways in which one can impact the lives of others. Joshua’s aging gives us an opportunity to reflect on our own assignments in life. Will we be diligent to work as long and as much as God grants us, or will we cut the assignment short and enjoy life?

There is still more work for us to do. Our children and communities need our voices and our wisdom. Dr. Myles Monroe stated that we must do our best to die empty. If there is an incomplete assignment in you, work it out or work with others to make it a reality.

God gave Joshua a blueprint on how to end his Promised Land campaign. All that was given to his predecessor, Moses, was handed down to Joshua, so he was given instructions on what land belonged to each tribe. In this effort, Joshua worked at being diligent, being courageous even in his old age, and being fair with designating the inheritance to Israel.

BIBLICAL EMPHASES FOR STUDY

I. Being Diligent in Assignments (*Joshua 13:1*)

In his later years, Joshua, after leading in battle and serving as the leader of Israel, was now to the point where he was stricken in years. This would normally be the time, if we are blessed to make it, when we would sit back, relax, and let

go. Yet, God stirs Joshua to the point of being attentive and persistent in these his last assignments, to close the chapter on accomplishing the Promised Land.

No excuses are given as to why Joshua could not do the work. As an encouraging moment, his co-laborer Caleb was still going strong and standing alongside him. Sometimes, all we need is to know that we have help around us. God did not give room for retiring, for there was more land to possess as the leader of Israel.

We must embrace that concept of diligence in our realm. There is no need for us to complain about advancing in years; rather, we must work with wisdom until the assignment is complete and God receives the glory for what He has allowed us to accomplish.

II. Being Courageous (*Joshua 13:2-6*)

There are battles we fight that are external and easy. Some of our greatest challenges are the battles within. We met Joshua as a brave and courageous man; and now, as an older leader, he was leading Israel further in battle. We know he waxed valiantly, but some days the fight of the mind is more difficult. When we examine aging, it seems easier to stop doing; but in this passage, be encouraged to push beyond years.

God's word of covering, as He did with Moses, was reaffirmed in Joshua—that He would lead him into what was promised. Joshua just needed to continue following God's guidance and victory was his. His task was to assign the land to each tribe. As a reward for their faithfulness, their obedience to leadership, and for being heirs of Abraham, each tribe was given territory to sustain them and their families and their livestock. These had been long tedious battles and years of moving; but Joshua was not to get weary.

There is a place for every worker in the church. We can assign specific tasks to those who may not be physically agile, but are mentally vibrant to teach and train those beginning to bud in ministry. Be courageous to seek out specific areas in which to stay relevant in the kingdom of God.

III. Being Equitable (*Joshua 13:7*)

Every tribe had put in the work to obtain the Promised Land. They experienced failures but learned from them. They saw the miraculous in battle, yet remained humbled. Now it was time to complete the task and give the inheritance fairly to the children of Israel. Many had fallen off due to disobedience, complaining, and doubting, but their seed was able to march forward and accept what others forfeited.

Our working comes with the knowledge that there is a reward for all we do. Faithfulness to God paid off. Each tribe possessing their land should bring joy. Our accomplishing our goals is encouraging to the next person in line. When we celebrate one another's successes, it pushes others to work even harder at accomplishing their own.

God has given all His children an equitable reward for eternal living beyond the Jordan River. That place called heaven is prepared for us all. It is where the streets are paved with gold, where crying is no longer applicable, and where there is no more suffering and no more pain. God has dealt with us fairly, and we can be thankful for His grace toward us.

Conclusion

Each of us possesses something valuable. We must be diligent in making sure that we lift up others around us as we journey through life. Let's be intentional about getting up each day and claiming all that God has promised us.

Biblical Principles for Men

- 1. Has your view of serving changed as you have gotten older? For many people, the idea of serving is foreign and undesirable; however, God wants us to have a servant mentality.
- 2. How would you handle Joshua's task at this age? Remember that age is just a number. God can use a person in His service at any age.

Closing Prayer

God, thank You for longevity in ministry and the willingness to stay the course. Lift us up even higher. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.


