

Joshua to Saul
Finding Light in the Darkness, Session 8
Slide Notations – Cere Muscarella

Last week... Made it thru Joseph “Not everything in life is as it seems” (Genesis)...

Never give up, never give in, keep your eyes on God... No matter what your past, it is fully redeemable!
No matter what has happened in the past it is only a small part of your life/future! A good/evil that God can use for good, for you and those you love!

Joseph lessons! *People:* parents, X’s, kids ,friends, enemies, teachers, leaders, pastors... *Events:* births, graduations, marriage, loss of loved ones, financial blessings-disasters, achievements, crises... *Circumstances:* seasons of life, storms, career changes, ministry assignments... ***Can’t stop the plans of God, can’t keep us from our destination, unless we let them!***

Interpreting Exercise... for people, circumstances, and events...

IC: Integrity check? Convictions/actions =? Hit by lusts, temptations, conflicts... Hold values, make moves, follow thru?

NP: Negative prep. Failed IC! Not again! Challenges to character, grass is greener temptation. Find yourself face down, pained... but alert!

FC: faith challenge. Crossroads of life. Take hi-way, God’s way? Word say? Choose?

LC: life crisis? Intense situations/pressure/sickness. Who do we run to/depend on, first?

DC: Divine contact? Help/guidance. God sends someone into life crucial moment

LB: Leader backlash. Mentor failure/pain. Who are you following? Who controls?

DR: destiny rev. moving forward/new day. Do you keep listening, or run?

I: Isolation? Sickness, termination, straits. Out of the flow, set aside, immobilized... What do you do... something? Or?

God is working all things together for good for those whose hearts are maturing toward Him!

Last week... Made it thru Joseph “Not everything in life is as it seems” (Genesis)... To Moses (Exodus) with a touch on Numbers to finish out the Pentateuch (first five books of the Law)! (Remember, we are doing “Characters Study” not events/circumstances) Ended with Moses not entering into the land because of his sin... Felt the sobriety, fear, some confusion!

If Joseph taught us about God’s grace thru all things Moses tells us of God’s judgment for some sins and some sinners!

Numbers 20 “Take the rod and gather the people, and speak to the rock before their eyes and it will give water and you will bring them to the water flowing from the rock and give them and their animals to drink!”

This has happened before, 39 yrs earlier!

That time, w/o reprimand, God told Moses to take his rod and strike the rock and it would bring water...

“And Moses took the rod, as God commanded and he said to them (uh oh... not part of the command!) Hear now you rebels, must we fetch water for you from this rock (not part of the script; like to see that)? And Moses lifted up his hand and smote the rock twice with the rod and water came out abundantly!”

If this is so wrong, why did water flow? Because God ultimately cares about needs/people! Gives ministry gifts for the needs/people!

Here’s the explanation of why leaders can be so lame, ignorant, even bad and good things still flow from them, despite them! It’s also the reason so many uninitiated believers continue to let leaders abuse them because they attribute the good things to the wrong persona!

“And the Lord spoke to Moses & Aaron, because you believed Me not (My words weren’t enough), to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you will not bring them in to the land I have given them!” (cp Deut 18)

Moses didn't doubt God was going to give them water... that's not the belief issue! The signal here something has gone really wrong is the severity of the punishment...119 yrs/79 walking w/God/shut down!

Moses... “Still crazy after all these years...” The presumption/pride/self promotion leading to outright rebellion, self-insertion, and misrepresentation of God... Moses was so completely carried away in his frustration and anger that he didn't even take a breath slandering God's nature... He publicly dishonored the Master whom it was his special privilege to glorify!

All sin is the same to God... but all sinners are not!

All leaders need to know... To whom much is given... **Lk12.48** Leaders carry “greater judgment...” **Js3.1** *People will always be people... and if that frustrates you take it to Him!* The sheep belong to Him... you can't kick them, eat them or kill them! Limited to what you can do for God by what God says...! **D18** The Lord is very jealous for His name!

Lest you fear for Moses... He got to see the promised land... Although you must remember that he was so soon in paradise that Canaan (on broken planet earth) could not compare... This place is not our home! Busted sphere become a junkyard of busted stuff! Ministry continued on Mt... w/Elijah... And his testimony of faithfulness was preserved forever in Hebrews!

Joshua... Name: Jehovah is salvation! Joshua was a protégé of Moses! Joshua in the battle w/Amalek (Aaron/Hur) **17.14** hinted as successor/chosen by God. **N27.18** appointed as successor by God! **Josh1**

His commission from God. *“The past is over/time to get up/go on...”* “I have gone before you... I have a lot to give you... I will make sure you win... Only be strong and of good courage... to keep My words, to not turn away, to prosper!”

Classic Joshua... When Joshua was at Jericho he lifted his eyes and saw a man with a sword in his hand and met him asking, ‘Are you for us or against us?’ The man answered ‘No.’ But I am here as a captain of the army of God! And Joshua fell on his face! “What do you want me to do?” **5.13-15**

Tough guy meets The Guy! Have to be strong in only the right places!

Jesus showed up(Christophany) after Joshua and the people showed they were strong and of courage to keep His words... and next 4 chapters records the string of victories!

Famous last words...

And Joshua gathered all Israel and rehearsed for them all that God had done and said, “Fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth and put away the gods your fathers served. If it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord! And then, at 110, he died! **24.1-29**

Quick Study... Rahab! The harlot in the line of Jesus! **Mt1.5 J2** Life changed when she decided to side w/God, hiding the two spies. She had a great grasp of God's sovereignty: “I know God has given you the land...” **2.9** Willing to lay down her life for family! **13** Scarlet thread/token of her salvation! **18**

It's not how you start, or what you've done; but who you have faith in and how you finish that's important!

Quick Study... Gideon! God wants to deliver rebellious Israel from the Midianites! **Judges 6** I'm not worthy! I'm poor. I'm the least. “Go I will be with you. You will not die!” Night of the battle, Gideon's fleece! Wet the fleece and leave the ground dry. Wet the ground and leave the fleece dry. Now how many guys? How many? The original 300! And they won!

Many called, few chosen! Ok. No credit! Who needs faith if you have equal strength, adequate talent, competitive plan? If we are not hopelessly outnumbered, outmaneuvered and overwhelmed it's not even a fair contest when God is on our side!

Quick Study... Ruth! *Love your mother in law!* Orpah; turned back to her people and her gods because the way was too hard! Ruth; “where you go I will go, where you stay I will stay, your people will be my people and your God will be my God, and where you die I will die and be buried!” ***When outsiders turn to God with their whole heart... blessing is ahead!*** Ruth marries Boaz, they beget Obed, who begets David... Ruth is in the line of Jesus!

The Book of “Eli!” (1Samuel – Focusing on the lessons from Eli) Eli, High Priest/Judge of Israel **1Samuel** Eli finds Hannah praying in the temple, moving her lips in prayer **v13** Accuses her of being drunk **v14** Agonizing over her barrenness... **v15** “The Lord grant your request...” **v17** He does and she gives her son, Samuel **v28** “And he ministered unto the Lord before Eli the priest...” **2.11** Now the sons of Eli were there **1.3** And they were sons of Belial... they knew not the Lord **2.12** and their sins were very great **2.17** They not only took their portion of the sacrifice... they took some of the portion left for the people... **v13-16** People hated coming to offer to the Lord because of them **v17** And committed sexual sins w/women dedicated to temple service! **v22** Now when Eli was very old **v22** he approached his sons **v23** But they wouldn’t listen to him! ***He could have removed them from service, he could have judged them... false and mistaken kindness(?)***

And God approached him: “Because you honored your sons above Me – and shared with them the fatness of your privileged calling... and lightly esteemed Me... I will cut off your house from serving... And in one day Hophni and Phineas will die and I will give My house to another!”

Lessons from “Eli!” You can be engaged in ministry/miss it! You must make your kids – sure! Ministry and family must combine! God does not take kindly to personal gain built on abuse! Never be a coward when it comes to right-raising your kids! If we fail, He provides for Himself a replacement minister!

Quick Study... Saul! “Asked for!” (Samuel, of Eli fame, was prophet, judge and priest!) but Israel wanted to be like other nations... Give us a king! **1Sam 8.5, 19** Not a wrong thing; time of judges ending... Wrong reason; like all the nations, he will judge us and fight our battles for us! Wrong person; the Lord anointed him to be king, but waiting for the one after His own heart (David)!

Saul, profile: 1S10.8 cp 13.12 Presumptuous, impatient, self ruled! Couldn’t wait for God! Rejected as king! Nice start! **13.13,14 15.3 vs. 13,14** Disobedient, lying, greedy **15.17** no longer small in his own sight; conceited and blame shifting. To obey is better than sacrifice and listening than offerings! Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry!

Too late he realized and confessed... “I have sinned; behold I have played the fool and erred exceedingly!”