

Sermon Title:
"Be Encouraged!" ~ Joshua 10

INTRODUCTION:

I. God Encourages Us Through Relationships. vs. 1-7

- A. He encourages us through friends who fight for us. vs. 16-21
1. What kind of friends were the Gibeonites?
 - a) They had lied to the Israelites.
 - b) They had been pagans.
 - c) They were new acquaintances.
 2. How much would you sacrifice for a stranger?
 - a) Joshua asked "all" the people of war to make an all night march 19 miles from Gilgal to Gibeon.
 - b) They marched uphill to save a pagan city that had just deceived them!
 3. Unity principle: the people are strongest when unified.
 - a) Note emphasis on "all" Israel in the text. Vs. 7, 15, 29, 31, 34, 36, 38, 43
 - b) No one "sharpened his tongue" against any of the sons of Israel . v. 21
- B. He encourages us through friends who exhort us. Vs. 22-27
1. The scene here is that Joshua and his leaders have defeated the five kings.
 2. The leaders have their feet on the necks of the enemy.
 3. Why does Joshua say in v. 25 "do not be afraid?"

II. God Encourages Us Through His Word. Vs. 8-11

- A. What is God's promise?
1. The statement of promise -
No one will be able to stand against you. 1:5, 6:2, 8:1,10:8
 2. How sure is it?
 - a) Chapter 6 with Yahweh they experience great victory.
 - b) Chapter 7 without Yahweh they experience defeat.
 - c) Chapter 8 with Yahweh they have great victory.
 - d) Chapter 9 without Yahweh they are deceived.

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3. How often do we need to hear it?
 - a) We need to hear when we are facing a raging river and imposing giants. Vs. 1:6, 7, 9, 18.
 - b) We need to hear it when we are facing imposing obstacles that are too tall and too thick to overcome. Vs. 6:2
 - c) We need to hear after we have confessed sin and wonder if we can expect victory. Vs 8:1, 18

B. What might make us doubt the promise?

1. Our mistakes.
 - a) Achan's sin. (Chapter 7)
 - b) Joshua's mistake. (Chapter 9)
2. The people's grumbling.

C. What the Lord can do!

1. He can cause the enemy to panic. v. 10
2. He can send hailstones. v. 11
3. He can do more than we can. v. 11

III. God Encourages Us Through Answered Prayer. Vs. 12-15

- A. Can the sun stand still?
1. Did the earth actually stop rotating?
 2. Did the earth tilt on its axis so the day became longer?
 3. Was there a refraction of light or an aurora so that there was more light?
- B. What is the significance of the fact that this is the last recorded miracle in this book?
1. We have 11 more chapters of fighting to go and no more miracles.
 2. Most of this book is about fighting ordinary battles the ordinary way.
 3. Can we find God in the ordinary?

CONCLUSION:

1. If you are discouraged, what can you do?
 - a. Be realistic.
 - b. Tell a friend.
 - c. Read stories of the victories of God in the Bible and round the world today.
 - d. Decide to fight for God. And know if you do, He will fight for you!
 - e. Make a memory stone. The grave marker in v. 27 is the 7th memory stone in Joshua.
 - f. Pray : Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!