

Week Ten 6/16/18

JOSHUA

"A Study in Strength"

Joshua 8:1-35

Victory Over Sin:

With the sin of Achan behind them they have victory at Ai. Sin had brought about a defeat in their lives, but once the sin put to death, they had victory. But notice...it wasn't their victory...God gave them the victory!

Jesus gave us victory over sin 2,000 years ago on the cross...He put all of our sin to death on the cross...yet we continue to allow sin to bring about defeat in our lives!

But how is that so...Paul wrote to the Romans: **Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.** (Romans 6:6-7)

Notice the language...The body of sin "**might**" be done away with. The we "**should**" no longer be slaves to sin. Might and should are called "modal" verbs.

A modal verb is a type of verb that is used to indicate modality - that is: likelihood, ability, permission and obligation.

So, these words are predicated on what we do.

The next line is more definitive...for those who have died with Jesus...we have been freed from sin. His dying set us free from sin. Whether we allow sin...whether we give sin permission back into our lives...is up to us.

One commentator summed this up nicely. "At the new birth, we became, not a sinless Christian but an embattled, not yet perfect, Spirit-empowered, persevering, Christ-treasuring, sin-hating, new being. A new creation in Christ."

We are in a fight...a battle between our new life, this new creation...and our old man, our old life...our flesh.

Scripture describes this battle, and how we overcome it:

Paul wrote that he had fought the good fight! (2 Timothy 4:7)

And he wrote to Timothy to fight: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:12)

John wrote that: Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9)

We are in Christ no longer want to practice sin...we are no longer content in our sin...we struggle with it.

Paul wrote: Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:11-13)

It is a matter of who is on the throne of your life...you or Jesus. Let Jesus reign in your life and put the sin that fights to reign in your life to death.

Q. How do we let Jesus reign in our lives?

Isn't He on the throne...how did He get off the throne?

I love this statement; **"You don't kill friends, you kill enemies."**

It is extremely difficult to put to death the enemy (sin, flesh) when we have made friends with it!

Sin killed our Best Friend...Jesus...sin is what led Him to the cross...but His love for us is what caused Him to endure all that He went through even death on the cross...

Q.

What has your sin done for you lately?

Has sin ever given you victory?

Because of His sacrifice...the outcome for all who believe is guaranteed...Jesus gave us victory over sin...and one day we will stand before Him having won the fight with our flesh. We will stand before Him, glorified...not by our works...but by His sacrifice.

But until then it is a process! A daily, moment by moment battle with our flesh.

Jude sums up the outcome for us:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To

God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

The sin in our lives isn't a defeat...it is a chance for God to show the rest of the world His amazing grace and mercy.

When we go to war with our flesh we gain victory over our flesh and our fleshly desires; and God is glorified by our victory over our flesh. His grace is on full display...He doesn't smote us (because when God smotes us...we are smotted) He uses us...He uses our lives...as an example of His Grace.

Q. How...how does God show His grace through us?

Why, why does He use us?

Don't miss the moral of the story here.

Satan will come at us...he will do battle against us...But Jesus has already given us victory over Satan and sin. And we no longer do battle with the enemy alone...God is with us...and if God is for us than who can be against us. Always remember that greater is He who is in us...than he who is in the world.

And notice what Joshua did...he built an alter to God...he gave God the glory. And the people renewed their covenant with God.

Q. Do we give God the glory for the little victories in our lives?

Do we renew our commitment to Him, to follow Him and die to self?

Do we make a commitment to God...not to win ever battle with our flesh...but to never stop fighting the good fight?

Notes:

