

Sermon Study Guide



#7: No Plan B in Obedience

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

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In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.

Reflect

What was the best plan you had that actually happened?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Joshua 8:1-35

Discussion Questions

Having a contingency plan is wise, but not when it comes to obedience to the Lord and His Word. Read Joshua 8:1-35. We find in this passage four principles for obedience to give you the courage to obey God and His Word, even if you encounter times of uncertainties.

1. **God's commands are for our good; we should obey (v. 1-2).** After the incident with Achan and the sanctification of the nation, how did God encourage Joshua and His people? Point out the good things that God mentioned in His commands to them. Can you think of any commands of God to you as His child that does not include good things for you? On the other hand, give examples of how His commands are beneficial to you.
2. **Obedience cedes control to God and leaves the results to Him (v. 3-17).** What did the Lord promise His people in verse 7 before His command in verse 8 that shows there is no backup plan, but that they should leave the results to God? Why is it difficult to obey when you are not certain about the outcome of your obedience? Share an experience when you trusted God and obeyed Him because that was what He said in His Word. What was the result of your obedience to Him?

3. **As long as you obey, you will be alright and not disqualified from God's blessings (v. 18-29).** What was the specific instruction of God to Joshua in verse 18? What happened when Joshua followed this command (v. 26)? In what ways does obedience to God make you look ridiculous in the eyes of others? How are trials and tests in life ways for God to test your character? What keeps you in obedience so that you will not disqualify yourself from God's blessings?
4. **No one is exempt from full obedience to God's commands (v. 30-35).** How did Joshua lead God's people in worship after the great victory at Ai? What does it tell you about the importance of reading the full Word of God? How do you read God's Word? Do you only pick what you think will help you and make you feel good? How do you accept rebuke and words of discipline from His Word? Do you believe that you can be exempted from full obedience to God's command? Why or why not?

Respond

In Walk: The world may make fun of you when you live in obedience to God, but remember that God's commands are for your own good. Are there any commands of God that you are struggling to obey? What do you have to do so that you will obey Him even without a backup plan? Have you made the choice to glorify God by obeying Him so that you can win in the game called life?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, there are times that I am very indecisive in obeying your commands because I can't see what's ahead of me. Help me to completely put my trust in You. As I read Your Word, I pray that I would be moved and convicted that You are indeed trustworthy and would never command me to do something that is impossible to obey. Thank You that everything You want for me is for my own good. In Jesus' name. Amen.