

Sermon Study Guide



#13: Stay the Course

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

May 16, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

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's the most important goal for you to accomplish right now? What motivates you to stay the course so that you can carry out your goal?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Joshua 23:1-16

Discussion Questions

Joshua gave the leaders three motivational warnings that they should heed to stay the course and follow God's commands, which is still applicable to us today:

1. **Motivational Warning #1: Do not normalize, legitimize, or compromise with false worldviews (v. 6-8).** Why did Joshua caution the people of Israel to stay away from the pagan Canaanite people? What are some of the things that you know are not right from God's perspective, but have become normal and legitimized to many Christians because of what the world, especially the media, tells us to believe? As a follower of Christ, what should you do so that you will not be drawn away from Christ by false worldviews?
2. **Motivational Warning #2: God-aided success ends if one associates with the enemy (v. 9-13).** What was the key to Israel's victory and success, as Joshua reminded God's people? What did he remind them to do (v. 11), and what were the consequences if they didn't listen (v. 12)? How is associating with the enemy being manifested in Christian life nowadays? What are

the consequences of this betrayal of God and abuse of His grace?

3. **Motivational Warning #3: God's discipline comes if His children abandon him (v. 14-16).** How did God show His faithfulness to the people of Israel? What were they expected to do in return? What does unfaithfulness to God entail? What is the purpose of God's discipline to an erring Christian?

Respond

In Walk: In life there will always be many distractions to keep us from looking only to Christ and running the race straight to the end. How are you running the Christian race? What is your motivation to stay the course?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, there are times that I get confused because my worldview affects how I think and behave. I am concerned that I may be compromising my faith because of those strong worldviews. May You help me to be really motivated to stay the course, to fight the good fight and finish the race by being faithful to You all the time. Thank You that by Your grace I can do it. In Jesus' name. Amen.