

Success in the Lord as a Congregation
Joshua 1:8

Introduction:

1. Success in the eyes of God and in the eyes of the world are completely different. The world looks at pure numbers to define success; God looks at growth as spiritual maturity
2. When we are defining how successful we are as a congregation, we need to see if we have God on our side or not. Mere numbers do not prove anything.
3. In this lesson we are not going to look at exactly what God has given us to do but the importance of following God's commands for our success.

Discussion:

I. Success is Already Ours (Joshua 1:1-5)

- A. God is the visionary. (1-4)
 1. He told the people to go to the land
 2. He was going to give it to them
- B. Nobody can thwart God's plan, when His people are obediently being faithful (5)
 1. No individual can stand between God and His people when it comes to God's plan
 2. One thing is for sure, when we are faithful, God is with us and will not forsake us
 3. God sees His plans through to the end.

II. Success Can Be Taken Away (Joshua 7)

- A. Failure in God's plan is not the fault of God
 1. Joshua cried out to God, thinking God was displeased with them (6-9)
 2. God let's Joshua know the true cause of the loss in battle (10-12)
 3. Sin is what always separates us from God (Isa 59:1-2)
 4. It also has the potential to destroy the congregation (1 Cor. 5:6-8)
- B. God gave them the formula for success
 1. Trying to accomplish God's plan, not according to His formula, will not work
 2. We see the consequences of drifting from God's plan
- C. Sin must be taken care of or it will destroy the lump
 1. The battle was lost to Ai, who should have easily been defeated
 2. Sin had to be removed for the ban to be lifted off of the people

III. Success Can Be Obtained (Joshua 1:6-9)

- A. God desires faithfulness, not only in His word but also in our lives
 1. God tells the people to be strong and courageous, but they only have that ability if they follow ALL of the law.
 2. Success comes from following God's plan and not our own (Joshua 24:14-21)
- B. When God is on our side we are to neither tremble nor be dismayed
 1. God says to go and have success wherever you go.
 2. They were going to have success in whatever God said they were going to have success in
 3. As long as they had the truth and lived by the truth, they were to never fear
 4. Israel was going into battles for life and death and had no reason to fear (our battles are much less life threatening, we should have much greater courage teaching people the truth!)

Conclusion:

1. If we want to have the same success that Israel had, we need to take the same advice that God had given them
2. Let's be strong and Courageous, God has given us His word and the truth. Those who the truth should fear nothing.
3. Jesus Christ, was crucified and died for the church, when we join His body, we die to self and begin to live for Him!! We are raised by the same power that Jesus was raised...Let's show the power of God to our community!