

Joshua Part 4 - "Stand" (6-4-23)
A well worn path to a brand new place

Series Overview & Goals

- Learn from Joshua's life - how to move forward and take new territory
- A journey of identity, freedom, leadership, victory, finding a home, and becoming a people

Review: Start, Stay, Stare - serve, consistent time in God's presence, walk by faith in face of obstacles

Today: "Stand" - Moses passes the torch to Joshua (Numbers 27, Deuteronomy 31, Joshua 1)

Context: 40 years is coming to a close - the next generation is taking their place & moving into new territory

1) Invest in the future

Passing the torch (Numbers 27:12-23)

Numbers 27:12-13 (ESV)

(12) The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and **see the land** that I have given to the people of Israel. (13) When you have seen it, you also shall be **gathered to your people**, as your brother Aaron was

Note: Have vision for the next generation (when we despise the next generation or fear for their future, then we fail at this). Look ahead in hope to heaven, and the legacy we have carried and will pass on.

If you fear the future your kids will face, if you are worried about who the next generation is becoming, then the only right response is to invest in them . . .

Numbers 27:18-20 (ESV)

(18) So the LORD said to Moses, "**Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.** (19) Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and **you shall commission him in their sight.** (20) **You shall invest him with some of your authority**, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey.

Note: Invest some of yourself in the next generation

- Definition: "invest some of your authority" (KJV - put some of thine honor)
 - **put** - place, put, endow, bestow, set, give
 - **thine** - the picture is of blood and seed (meaning: blood continues)
 - **honor** - vigor, authority, majesty, honor
- This is about passing on some of what makes you who you are - the vital part of you (parental)
- Do this in public: Discuss the importance of public affirmation (Jesus baptism)

Numbers 27:22-23 (ESV)

(22) And Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, (23) and **he laid his hands on him and commissioned him** as the LORD directed through Moses.

Note: Laying hands and commissioning is not to be taken lightly. Follow the Lord's directive - and do it!

Deuteronomy records Moses commissioning the next Generation & appointing Joshua . . .

Deuteronomy 31:7-8 (ESV)

(7) Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. (8) It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Note: Investing in the next generation builds strength and courage; and it dispels fear & dismay

2) Stand with the future**Deuteronomy 31:14-15 (ESV)**

(14) And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, the days approach when you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him.” And **Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting**. (15) And the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent.

Note: Present yourselves - “**yasab**” - A verb indicating to stand, to confront, to take one's stand, to station oneself, to take a firm stand

This passage isn't a unique moment in Moses and Joshua's relationship - they spent time in the Lord's presence together & they served together regularly!

God speaks to Moses about his passing, about the people's future, including coming failures, and then gives him a song to teach the people. (why a song? It can be remembered and passed down!)

Deuteronomy 31:23 (ESV)

And the LORD commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you.”

Note: Moses hears what God speaks over Joshua, and Joshua hears what the Lord is speaking over him

*Discuss the Importance of listening to the Lord about others, and affirming what the Lord says

2 Recent Examples:

- Andrew & Dira Soreano send-off (March 28th)
- Men's Retreat - practice listening to the Lord and affirming one another

Do we know how to pay attention to each other in order to recognize the gifts God has given to each of us, and to stand with each other and affirm that truth?

Who are you doing this with on a regular basis?

*Messenger Fellowship conference this spring - beautiful picture of multi-generational affirmation & co-leading

3) Embrace the Future (even when that means letting go!)

Joshua 1:1-5 (ESV)

(1) After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, (2) **“Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them,** to the people of Israel. (3) Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. (4) From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. (5) No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. **Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.**

Note: This is a successful hand-off! All “parenting” is preparing our “children” to grow into who they are called to be, to lead in their own unique place and time, and to walk with their Heavenly Father!

- We've got to release when it's time to release (Example: David Green and the youth group)
- We've got to stand and lead when it's time to lead.

Joshua 1:6-9 (ESV)

(6) Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. (7) Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. (8) This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (9) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Note: Joshua isn't hearing anything new!

- God is re-affirming what he has learned from Moses, & what Joshua has previously received from the Lord.
- God is reminding him of what he has learned & also establishing him for this specific season of leadership.
- God is saying - it's time to step up Joshua, and you are not alone!

When Moses is dead, the reality of that leadership moment is huge - will we be ready because we have walked with, served, and learned from our spiritual fathers and mothers?

Conclusion: Consider the unique opportunity you have right here, right now!

- Who are your spiritual parents?
- Who are your spiritual children?
- How can you invest in them?
- Stand and serve with them?
- Embrace them and the season you are in together now?

Deuteronomy 30:11, 14 (ESV)

(11) “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. . . .
(14) But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.