



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Scripture: Joshua

TITLE: Joshua – Success Defined

What is success? Well, that depends on who you ask, right? Most of the time, people define success as wins, wealth, influence, or position. But is that how God defines it? Is that how we should define it? The book of Joshua answers the question: what is success?

The book of Joshua is the first of the 12 historical books of the Old Testament. Joshua was written between 1400 - 1350 B.C. It covers roughly a 25 year period. The book can be divided into two parts: chapters 1-13 contains the seven-year conquering of Canaan. Chapters 13-24 are the settlement in Canaan. Some of the people you will meet are Joshua, the successor of Moses, Rahab, the redeemed prostitute, Phinehas, Eleazar, and Caleb.

Is Jesus found in the book of Joshua? Not directly, but we do see types of Christ and His salvation. How so? Joshua is a type of Christ. His name is the Hebrew equivalent of Jesus. In chapter 5, the Commander of the army of the Lord is a pre-incarnate Christ. Then the story of Rahab's faithful action of letting down the scarlet cord portrays safety through the blood of Christ. Rahab, a prostitute, would be named in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

There are many great historical moments in this Old Testament book but none greater than the battle of Jericho. Truly an example of God's power over our strategy. God used obedience and faith to overcome strategy and military defense.

If there's one thing the people of God should learn from the writing of Joshua is that victory comes through faith in God and obedience to His Word. Strategy, power, or any other human advantage are second to the power and authority of God.

So, how does Joshua define success? The answer is found in Joshua 1:7-8 (CSB). Joshua writes,

“Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then, you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.”

That is the true definition of success. Success, according to God, is doing the will of God with the right motives.

One of the most common questions I get asked is, “What is the will of God for my life?” It's simple. Lovingly obey God. What does that look like? Go back to the Bible, and it will be clear.

You see, friend, God isn't concerned if you buy the red or the blue car. God cares if you buy the red or blue car for the right or wrong reasons. God cares if you buy the red Ferrari when you can afford the blue Ford.

So real success is doing the will of God with the right motives.

So here's my challenge for you today: redefine success correctly. We all face outside and inside pressure to perform and accomplish. That is not a bad thing, but when our value and esteem are found in those accomplishments, we are doomed to a futile life. Instead, in everything, let's do it for the Lord. Let's live in God's will through loving obedience. When we do, we will win the day.