**Sermon Title: The Effects of Courage**

**Sermon Text: Joshua 1:10-18**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to effective reflection of courageous leadership and followship that accomplishes the Great Commission.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 observations to be made about effective, courageous leadership and followship.**

“Some statements about courage:

* Courage is not absence of fear, but the mastery of fear. – Author Unknown
* Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. – Author Unknown
* Courage is the strength or choice to begin a change. Determination is the persistence to continue in that change. – Author Unknown
* He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life. – Muhammad Ali
* Without courage, wisdom bears no fruit. – Baltasar Grecian
* We must constantly build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear. – Martin Luther King”

[**Compiled by Mark Water, The New Encyclopedia of Christian Quotes, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, 1984, p. 231-232**]

**Introduction:** The Lord had spoken to Joshua. Now Joshua was to speak to key leaders, and they to the people. The importance of speaking and acting as one voice and team cannot be underestimated, to the success of any mission. Joshua without delay, commands the people based on God’s instructions and his instructive commands had a ring of certainty. The new leader had taken charge with courage and confidence.

 Paul’s instruction to a timid Timothy ring similar. (**2 Timothy 1:3-12**)

**1 Corinthians 16:13** Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

**I. The command of courageous leadership and followship. Vv.10-11**

**II. The commissioning of courageous leadership and followship. Vv.12-15**

**III. The cohesiveness of courageous leadership and followship. Vv.16-18**

**I. The command of courageous leadership and followship. Vv.10-11**

 A. Tell the **people**. V.10-11a

 B. Get the **provisions** ready. V.11b

 C. Take **possession** of the promise. V.11c

 The commands are based on what is already revealed in Scripture.

 “The world invents its own good works and persuades itself that they are good. But Paul declares that good and right according to the world are to be judged by the commandments of God.” – John Calvin

 [**Ibid., p.214**]

 “A widespread lack of confidence in Christ’s sufficiency is threatening the contemporary church.” – John MacArthur [**Ibid. p.218**]

**II. The commissioning of courageous leadership and followship. Vv.12-15**

 A. **Remind** the blessed. Vv.12-13 (**Deuteronomy 3:12-20; Numbers 32:16-32**)

 **Philippians 2:1-5** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **2** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. **3** *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

 B. **Rally** the blessed. V.14

 C. **Reassure** the blessed. V.15

 Commissioned to what was already given in Scripture. (**Hebrews 3:7-4:11**)

 Courage helps us to sacrifice for others, because we can’t be paralyzed by yesterday’s sins, successes or sorrows.

 Why are the two and one-half tribes singled out for this reminder? Joshua needed to be recognized as the leader by all of Israel, not just part of it, if he was to fulfill God’s plan (**v.2**). Ruben, Gad, and the eastern part of Manasseh had already received their land allotment as promised by Moses. They had no reason to follow Joshua across the Jordan. (**Chapter 15, 17**)

**III. The cohesiveness of courageous leadership and followship. Vv.16-18**

 The entire statement takes the form of an oath of blessing and cursing.

 A. The **testimony** of cohesiveness. V.16

 B. The **trust** of cohesiveness. V.17

 The affirmation included three phrases that begin with the words for everything/everywhere emphasizing the totality of obedience. The blessing recognizes the obedience to the succession of leadership, the cursing recognizes the consequences of disobedience to the succession of leadership.

 C. The **terminator** of cohesiveness. V.18a

 “Rebels” is used of Israel’s rebellion at Kadesh-barnea (**Deuteronomy 1:26; 9:23**) of the nation’s history (**Deuteronomy 9:7, 24; 31:27**) and of the rebellious son (**Deuteronomy 21:18- 21**). All of these times and acts of rebellion end in death, as here.

 The idea of “will be put to death” was a legal formula for capital punishment, as found in Exodus 21:12 and throughout the Old Testament law. (**1 Corinthians 10, 11**)

 D. The **triumph** of cohesiveness. V.18b