

Text: Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Title: “Be strong and of good courage”

¹ Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

² And he said to them: “I *am* one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not cross over this Jordan.’”

³ The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.

⁴ And the LORD will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.

⁵ The LORD will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.

⁶ **Be strong and of good courage**, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

⁷ Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “**Be strong and of good courage**, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

⁸ And the LORD, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

INTRODUCTION

“Be strong and of good courage” Deuteronomy 31:6a;7b

1. A vital word from Moses

- a) To the children of Israel (The nation)
- b) To Joshua the next appointed leader

2. The essence of this word of advice must be comprehended deeply

- a) By the nation of Israel
- b) By Joshua, the chosen successor

HIGHLIGHTING TWO PROBLEMS

1. Strength

- a) This is needed
- b) Two aspects of strength to note
 - i) Personal or Individual Strength
 - ii) Collective Strength

2. Courage

- a) Courage is difficult to find
- b) It is very hard to develop courage
 - i) Collective Courage
 - ii) Personal Courage

EXERCISING FAITH IN GOD AS A NATION

³ The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.

⁴ And the LORD will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.

⁵ The LORD will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.

⁶ **Be strong and of good courage**, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:3-6

1. Believing in God's Involvement

- a) The Lord God Himself will cross before you
- b) He will destroy the nations living there

2. Remembering what God had done

- a) In destroying the Amorites
- b) In defeating Kings Sihon and Og

3. Applying Faith in what God had promised

- a) To battle fear
- b) To overcome panic
- c) That God will not abandon His people
- d) That He will not fail them

EXERCISING FAITH IN GOD PERSONALLY

⁷ Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “**Be strong and of good courage**, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

⁸ And the LORD, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”

Deuteronomy 31:7-8

- 1. A Personal word given to Joshua
- 2. The essence of these words matched in spirit of what was spoken to Israel

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD LEADERSHIP

“Be strong and of good courage” Deuteronomy 31:7b

1. The word of faith given

- a) To the people
- b) To the leader
- c) The essence is the same:
 - i) Strength
 - ii) Courage

2. Leadership as a Responsibility

- a) This must be:
 - i) Clearly comprehended
 - ii) Courageously embraced
- b) The work assigned to Joshua
 - i) He must divide the land of Canaan
 - ii) He would need discernment
 - iii) He would need courage and strength
 - iv) It is a long process to divide up the Land of Canaan

3. Personal Faith to be found

- a) To overcome fear and dismay
- b) To believe in the following:
 - i) God will be there personally
 - ii) God will not fail nor abandon

OUR CHALLENGE

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
2 Timothy 1:7

1. What God has not given

- a) The spirit of fear
- b) This is the spirit of “cowardice”

2. What God has given

- a) Power
- b) Love
- c) A sound mind

3. May we learn to be strong and have a sound mind!