

Brave Heart

(Courage in a World of Compromise)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, 2015

Ray Davis

“True Bravery” Judges 1:1; Joshua 1:1-9

“In those days there was no king in Israel. It was a time when everyone did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges21:25). God’s people found themselves in a self destructive cycle over and over again of

Complacency->Compromise-> Consequences-> Crying out to God-> Covenant Renewal. This study through the O.T. book of Judges will help us to daily face with faith and courage the choice between looking to God as our Lord, or following the inevitably destructive spirit & preferences of our pluralistic age.

1) Sanctification doesn’t come to us automatically nor must we wait to claim it upon Christ’s 2nd Coming. It is to us what the Promise Land was to Israel to be entered into as our faith & courage grow. Josh1:2 “...arise, go over this Jordan...into the land I am giving to them...v3 every place the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you...”

2) As Israel fought their way into possession of the Promise Land, we must fight on toward maturity, meeting and defeating enemies that would stand in the way. Josh1:6 Be strong and courageous..., v7 Only be strong and very courageous..., v9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. v5 Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. v9 For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go. Ps23:4-5

3) God wants lordship over every area of our lives, not just some. Half-heartedness will prove to be a snare. Josh 1:7-8; Phil2:12-13; 2Tim3:16-17 Heresies: Activism vs. Quietism; Legalism vs. Antinomianism. We are justified by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone. Legalism = I obey therefore God accepts me. Antinomianism = God accepts me therefore I don’t have to obey. Gospel = God accepts me therefore I want to obey.

4) Spiritual decline is inevitable, and spiritual renewal is a continual need in our lives. Rom12:11; 2Sam11:1; Ps51:12; 1Tim6:12

5) We need a true Savior, to which all human saviors point, through both their flaws and strengths. Josh1:1 the LORD said to Joshua...; 1Cor10:6, 11; John 5:39; Heb12:2

6) The Doctrine of grace and redemption keeps us from seeing any person or situation as hopeless. No sin you’ve committed or sin committed against you is a match for God’s Amazing Grace. v2 Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go...into the land that I am giving to them... v3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you...v5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life...I will not leave you or forsake you. Matt6:12

7) Life is hard but God is loving, wise and in charge, no matter what it looks like. He is doing a thousand things that no one can see but Him for our good and His glory. v9 Don’t be dismayed...

Growing Notes

1) The kind of bravery that does not arise out of faith in God is adventurism (thrill seeking), or macho heroism (desperate to prove oneself), or plain cruelty (don’t care attitude). Explain. What important role does faith & courage play in the Christian life (2Tim1:7; Rom8:15, 37-39; Ps23:4-5)?

2) Read Judges1:1, 21:25; Joshua 1:1-9. Judges recounts the history of God’s people, Israel, between the time of Moses/Joshua and the first Kings as they take possession of the Promise Land. The book of Judges begins by looking backwards (Judges1:1) and ends by giving us a summary statement of the whole book and by looking forwards to the era of Kings (Judges21:25). Joshua 1:1-9 provides us a yardstick to measure the progress in Judges. What stands out to you from these texts?

3) Review the seven major points along with scripture references from this sermon. Which one(s) most challenge you? Explain.

4) What areas of your life do you need more faith & courage to experience the fullness of life God has promised (i.e. singleness, marriage, parenting, school, career, job, relationships, finances, health, etc.)? What are some steps you can begin to take to experience spiritual renewal to avoid the devastating consequences of spiritual decline? Pray that God will bring spiritual renewal to yourself & db through this series.