

INTRO:

Turn to Deut 34:5

George W. Bush, the president of the United States, was in an airport lobby, noticed a man in a long flowing white robe with a long flowing white beard and flowing white hair. The man had a staff in one hand and some stone tablets under the other arm. Excited, George W. approached the man and inquired, "Aren't you Moses?" The man ignored George W. and stared at the ceiling. Mr. Bush positioned himself more directly in the man's view and asked again, "Aren't you Moses?" The man continued to peruse the ceiling. George tugged at the man's sleeve and asked once again, "Aren't you Moses?" The man finally responded in an irritated voice, "Yes I am." George W. asked him why he was so uppity and the man replied, "The last time I spoke to a Bush I had to spend forty years in the desert!"

Brief overview of Moses and the Israelites – exodus and wilderness wandering.

Context:

Deut 34: 7-12

Would you want to walk in the man's shoes who was described as Moses was?

Josh 1:1-4

Josh 1:9-11

Thus Joshua begins to lead God's people in battle against foes much greater than them. Joshua's task was huge.

I would like for you to really get it into your minds what Joshua must have felt like after Moses died.

1. His mentor had died
2. He was faced with what seemed to most to be an impossible task
3. He had a new task in a strange land

Moses had trained Joshua in the art of wilderness wandering.

Moses had trained Joshua in wilderness wandering

101 Wandering - How to deal with grumblers

101 Wandering – 34 ways to prepare manna

101 wandering – Taking care of blisters and sunburn

101 Wandering – Motivational techniques to keep your kids and donkeys walking

When Moses handed over the reins to Joshua he had to learn how to do battle. Think of the uncertainty Joshua felt.

HOW BIBLICAL CONTEXT RELATES TO OUR CONTEXT

So what's the point.... So there was this guy way back when that faced incredible uncertainty in his life.

We all too face uncertainty in our lives, some of us more than others. Here are just a few examples

- Colleges to choose
- Careers to seek out
- future spouse
- financial decisions
- Job choice and security
- economy

As a church –we face uncertainty together

- letting go of traditions
- adjusting to changes in our culture in order to minister to it

Most of us know Joshua navigated uncertainty well and ended well.
End of Joshua he stood before all the people challenging Israel to serve the Lord.
"As for me and my household we will serve the Lord."

How do you navigate uncertainty in your life? Does it paralyze you? Do you throw caution to the wind?
Do you try to calculate every risk before making a step?

4 Biblical principles to help you navigate uncertainty in your life.

TRUSTING ONE WHO IS TRUSTWORTHY

Joshua faced a lot of uncertainty in his day and unlike many of us – how he proceeded could of meant life or death for himself and millions of Israelite men, women and children. How did Joshua handle this incredible pressure? He trusted in one who was trustworthy.

Understanding Faith

1. Faith vital for Salvation and walking with God. The Bible says that without faith we can't please God. So, what does faith look like in uncertainty and when you feel weak to trust? The prophet Jeremiah felt weak to trust at times as did others in the Bible. **Jer 15:18 Why then does my suffering continue? Why is my wound so incurable? Your help seems as uncertain as a seasonal brook, like a spring that has gone dry."** Have you ever felt like this?

2. Having faith does not mean everything turns out peachy. Satan wants us to believe that faith means God will give us everything we want just how we want it. Why does Satan want us to believe that? Because then there is no one to blame except for God when things don't go our way. Many people turn bitter and angry against God because of the circumstances of their life.

Faith is really being able to trust God despite our circumstances.

Example of faith when no food vs when you have cupboards full and money to go out to eat

Will you trust God in uncertainty? trust that even when we don't understand he is still in control. **"Lean not on your own understandings but trust in the Lord and He will direct your path."**

Persevering in faith

Not everything was easy for Joshua.

- God allowed enemy armies to win against Israel
- Joshua had to confront sin among his own people.
- Joshua failed to seek God and was deceived by a foreign nation.

I am sure at times circumstances seemed bleak and Joshua was confused as to why the Lord allowed certain things BUT Joshua never stopped trusting. His faith was steadfast.

When you feel weak to trust God, When it seems like nothing makes sense how do you keep trusting? You persevere! This is why Christian unity and accountability is so important. When you live outside of God's best (deep Christian unity and fellowship) you will falter. But if do not neglect the fellowship of the saints then you are much more equipped to run with perseverance. John 17 – Jesus calls us to be one with each other as he is one with the Father.

Heb 10:35-39 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For in

just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. 38 But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." 39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

When you trust one who is trustworthy there springs forth hope, joy and peace. But there is only one who is trustworthy, who has no darkness in him and who does not, indeed cannot fail – He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TAKING RISKS (COURAGE)

Nearly everything in life comes with some uncertainty. If you were to wait until you had calculated all the risks you would never do anything because you can almost never be 100% sure. All great men and women in the Bible and in the world today take risks. Usually it is these very risks that separate great leaders from average followers.

Joshua wasn't a great leader because he played it safe and simply attacked armies and cities smaller than his own.

Example: Jericho. I don't care who you are – when God tells you and your ill equipped army to march around a fortified castle and a people who could shoot you with arrows – you would be scarred. But Joshua trusted God and he also took a risk.

Would you have the job you have now if you didn't take some kind of risk? You had to put yourself out there didn't you? Would you have married your spouse if you first calculated all the risks possible before asking her out on a date? You see – you have to take risks in life. If you don't take risks, then you don't live. You may be breathing but without taking risks you are simply flesh and bones.

Taking risk does not mean being careless

Taking risks does not mean that we are careless. When you can minimize risks you should do it but don't sit around trying to be sure about everything. At some point you have to have the courage to jump. On the other hand if you simply throw caution to the wind and jump that is not courage – that is stupidity. Joshua's example is courage but not carelessness.

What is God asking you to do? What has he laid on your heart? What great thing do you know God wants you step out on? Take courage then men and women of the Most High God and do it. Don't be careless and don't let fear paralyze you.

I have no doubt that every time Joshua looked across the battlefield and saw the armies he was facing that there uncertainty but it didn't stop him. He had courage and He trusted in God. Do you see that your faith and trust in God can and should stir courage in you.

SEEKING GOD AND RESTING IN HIS GRACE

Few of us every feel equipped to face uncertainty in life. Usually we look at our weaknesses and think, "there is no way I can do that."

The apostle Paul looked at his weaknesses and didn't think he could continue on. In fact Paul prayed for God to help with something specific but God said no three times. Finally God had to remind Paul, **2 Cor. 12:9** "My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Dr. William Scott who started glad tiding india – bringing God’s Word to India. Wrote a devotional where he talks about how God’s grace has been sufficient for him even after his wife died. After being with her for 52 years and doing incredible ministry with here he was at a low point in his life but God’s grace was enough for him.

Sometimes we come to a point in our lives where there is nothing to be done except to rest in the grace of God. We know the road ahead is more than we can bear. The task is greater than we are (remind you of Joshua). Yet we trust in God and rest in the fact that his grace will pull us through and that our weaknesses will ultimately aid to show the glory and strength of God.

SEEKING GOD

I don’t have to tell you that you must seek God in all you do. Do not make any plans without seeking God. Sometime we seek God and then wait around for God to yell at us through a cloud or to write something on the wall. We think that if we just spend enough time in prayer and listen hard enough we will hear a clear answer. We convince ourselves – I am just waiting upon the Lord when in reality we are afraid, paralyzed, and lack trust in God.

Seek God in all things but seek him as you are going. If you are a born again Christian and the Spirit of God is in you then seek him but do not think he has to answer you with a clap of thunder before you can proceed. You have the Bible to light your path – you have Christian friends to give you wisdom and you have the Spirit of God in you.

Why did I begin to serve the local church I was at? Was it because I prayed so diligently and God said apply here. No – I definitely sought the Lord but I came to the church I’m at because I wanted to. I applied at Otterbein because I wanted to. I definitely saw God’s hand in the whole situation but if I would have waited until I heard God clearly say apply - I might still be praying about where God wants me in ministry.

Seek God in all things – seek him when you rise, seek him as you go and seek him when you lay down.

CONCLUSION

Navigating Uncertainty.

- Trust one who is trustworthy
- Take risks (courage) (but don’t be careless)
- Rest in God’s Grace
- Seek Him while you are going

Uncertainty in life is inevitable but so is God’s power and grace. Remember God works in and through you. If you are going navigate uncertainty well, then you are going to do it through the power of Christ in you.