

# Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ  
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 7

Number 31

November 22, 2020

## Rising Up From Defeat

Joshua was the son of Nun and of the tribe of Ephraim. Yet, nothing is known of his mother. However, when you find a man of the caliber of Joshua, you usually find a good and gracious woman in the background. Especially a man who reaches a position of influence like Joshua.

He was born during the weary years of bondage his nation suffered. Joshua knew something of the lash and the whip. He knew the almost impossible task of the brick fields. He also was acquainted with the deep sigh of liberty. Yet, this young slave did not realize that he would rise to greatness. He had no idea he would become Israel's supreme leader. No clue he would one day be the commander of all of Israel.

He had seen the moral and social degradation of his people. A degradation that was brought on by the terrible idolatries of that day and time. Thus, when he came to the position of leadership, his solemn commands were colored by his early experience.

Joshua provides a model of faithful obedience to the Lord's law. He is first mentioned in the Bible in Exodus chapter 17. That is soon after the departure from Egypt. Moses designated him to defend Israel. It was at Rephidim when Amalek attacked Israel. From the hilltop, Moses was watching. Aaron and Hur steadied the arms of Moses, raised for victory. Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.

The next time we hear from Joshua he is the servant of Moses. The only person permitted to go up with him into the mountain of God. It was in Exodus 24:13 when Moses received the ten commandments. Later, when Moses left the sacred tent, the place where he communed with God to

report the Lord's words to the people in the camp, Joshua stood guard at the entrance to the tent.

When the spies were sent out to the land of Canaan, only Joshua and Caleb urged the people to trust that God would deliver the land to them. The other spies advised retreat. The Canaanites appeared to be stronger than the Israelites. The people were afraid. They considered appointing a captain to take them back to Egypt and threatened to stone Joshua and Caleb. Joshua and Caleb alone among all the people who left Egypt were destined to enter the promised land. The other spies died of a plague. The Israelite nation was condemned to 40 years of wilderness wandering, a year for each day of the spies mission.

It was Joshua who was appointed to lead Israel into the Promised Land as it is recorded in Exodus 31:7-8. It was Joshua who was commissioned by the Lord lead his people in Joshua chapter 1.

As Joshua leads the people into the Promised Land, he is granted victory after victory. In Joshua chapter 3 they crossed the flooded Jordan. In Joshua chapter 6 we read of the conquest of Jericho.

However, in Joshua chapter 7, we find Joshua comes to know the agony of defeat. About three thousand are sent to conquer Ai and they are defeated. You see, Achan had "troubled" Israel. He had taken the spoils of war against the

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### In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry  
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday  
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday  
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

# Gathered Here and There



## Today's Sermon

### **“Thanksgiving During a Pandemic!”**

Our text comes from Psalms 137:1-6. It's all about being thankful during times of trouble.

## **FOR THE PANTRY....**

### **Macaroni and Cheese**

## **Rising Up From Defeat – Continued from page 1**

commandment of God. He had carried off an expensive garment, 200 shekels of silver and a gold bar. He dug a hole in his tent and hid them there. In Joshua 7:6-9, we see Joshua on his face, defeated and in despair. Yet, in verse 10 we hear God's call to Joshua. God says to Joshua, “Get thee up”. Yet, the question is “but how?”

Something goes wrong and Joshua wants to blame God. What Joshua must do is stop questioning God's character and focus on the good things God has done. Just like in our lives, when something goes wrong, we need to consider all of the good things God has done for us. When we consider all that God has done for us, how can we blame God for defeat?

Like Joshua, we cannot fix our minds on defeat. We must think of the blessings that God has already given to us. We also must think of all the blessings God has promised for the future.

What happened to Joshua is what often happens to us. Joshua had become problem-conscious instead of power conscious. In spite of God's blessings and promises, Joshua focused on one defeat.

Joshua rose up from this defeat and led his people to victory. Achan was put to death and Joshua was encouraged by God. When we are defeated, we can rise up from defeat and win. We have a resurrected and victorious Savior and His victory is our victory. We therefore must rise up and serve.

*tp*

## ***What Are These Trials?***

Sometimes the things against which we rebel most in life and look upon as obstacles and hindrances are the very things needed to develop our highest usefulness and efficiency.

We doubt not that if the diamond could express itself, would rebel against the grueling, burning contact of the polisher's wheels that grinds and polishes its several facets. Without the contact of the polisher's stone, the diamond has little commercial value. The swiftly revolving wheel cuts into its surface, and produces from a common appearing pebble, a gem of beauty and luster that is much admired and much sought after. There is no other way to produce a diamond except by grinding and polishing.

In the same degree it is necessary to subject the human life to difficulties, adversity and discipline in order to bring out those qualities that will make it a life of value to its possessor, and of service to those about it. Many men and women who have achieved much in the world can look back to incidents in their lives which at the time were viewed as misfortunes.

*-Just A Moment  
May 1967*

## ***Ponder these thoughts. . . .***

***It has been estimated that the number of times the average man or woman says no to temptation is once, weakly.***

***A useless life is, in reality, an early death.***

***Nobody knows so little as the man that knows too much.***

# Miscellaneous



## Those To Remember In Prayer

**SUNNY GLEN CHILDREN'S HOME** -The truck from Sunny Glen Children's home came this past Wednesday and picked up the contents of our pantry. So, our pantry looks like "Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard" and we now go about the process of re-stocking.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** – Sunday, December 6, 2020 we will be having a covered dish luncheon and celebrating birthdays and anniversaries for December, January and February. Make your plans to be here!

### Special Announcement

Remember, that even though we are not requiring the wearing of masks in our assembly, we do still want to do everything we can to be safe both for ourselves and for others. We would therefore ask that we all remain aware of social distancing and being respectful of other's personal space.

-thank you

### More Than Forgiveness

My father was fatally ill, and as I watched the precious life ebbing away, I was overcome with remorse at the thought that I must often have grieved that loving heart with my careless ingratitude and thoughtless disobedience. Penitently I begged his forgiveness for my wrongdoings in the past. With a look of ineffable love in his pain-dimmed eyes he said, "I can't remember that you ever did anything wrong." I had expected instant forgiveness but was not prepared for the full measure of pardon which I received. He could not remember my wrongs because of his great love for me. How like the Heavenly Father's love for us all. *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."* (Hebrews 8:12)

-Just A Moment

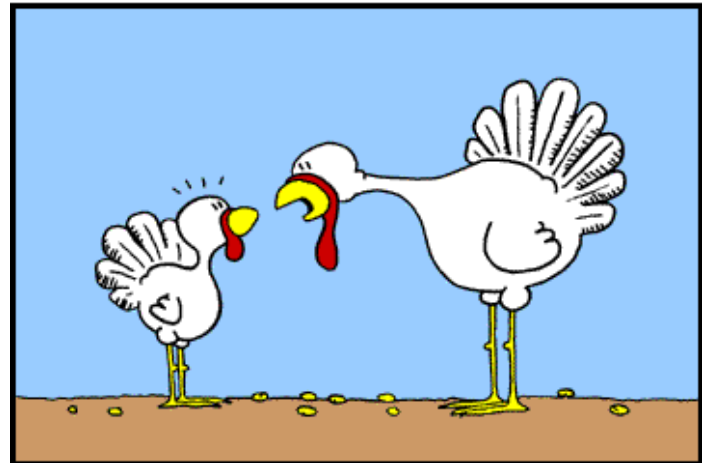
### THOSE WITH ONGOING NEEDS:

**Roxie Bostick** (back issues); **Gene Bradshaw** (Pending surgery); **Wayne Sims** (cancer); **Cody Butler** (Debra Pate's grandson) **Gracie Elam** (2 month old baby born with heart defect) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother, broken hip); **Myrtle Turner** (Norma Perkins' mother, broken arm) **Charles Williams** (Janice Williams brother-in-law, COVID 19)

### THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE :

Amanda Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,  
Leland Bradshaw, Lucas Tate

## On The Lighter Side.....



YES, EVEN TURKEYS HAVE SOMETHING TO BE THANKFUL FOR ON THANKSGIVING ... PERSONALLY, I'M THANKFUL THAT I LOST SO MUCH WEIGHT WHEN I WAS SICK LAST MONTH

### Blessed Is The Nation...

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."  
Psalm 33:12.

A great nation must be a good nation. The nation can be Christian only as the individuals composing it are Christians. Religion is a personal matter, not a state affair; voluntary, not forced.

The only way to make a nation Christian is to make its people Christian. As the individuals united in a nation recognize God as the ruler of their lives, they will magnify him and obey his word. He must be made the sovereign of the soul.

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## Across The Preacher's Desk

One of the great inventions of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the washing machine. It totally changed the back-breaking way that laundry had to be done. With the washing machine, you can put the clothes in, turn it on, come back in a few minutes and clean clothes are ready to be put in the dryer or hung on the clothesline (yes, some folks still do that!)

Yet, have you ever noticed how clothes sometimes come out of the washing machine? Often the shirts come out with the sleeves all twisted. Aprons come out with the strings tied in knots. This is caused by the outward pressure as the clothes are squeezed dry on the tub of the machine.

If you think about it, the spin of the washing machine often illustrates the way we live our lives. We spend our lives in a whirlwind of activity. Consequently, we often feel like we have been through the spin cycle and come out all tied in knots.

God never intended for us to live like that. Remember, Paul would write; "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6). Let's stop living our lives in the spin cycle.

*it's something to think about. . . .tlbp*

**Great Churches are built with  
Commitment!**