



### Continuing Success (Joshua 23:1-16)

**Main Idea:** Protecting what you have gained requires continued attention to our relationship to God.

**Connect:** Have you ever unknowingly purchased a counterfeit item? How did you find out it was not genuine article?

#### Discuss

1. What insight, observation, or principal from this sermon did you find to be most helpful, insightful or troubling? Explain ...
2. Joshua calls together the leaders of Israel to encourage them one last time (v1-6).
  - His final instruction to the leaders of Israel is remind them how far God has brought them, how God has fought for them, and to encourage them keep going. Joshua keeps the focus on God. Looking forward in your life, how can you keep your focus on God?
  - Our history is what makes us who we are today. Have you had a Joshua in your life? Someone who really had wisdom, strength and purpose from God? What has their life taught you?
  - In his final address to the leaders of Israel, Joshua wanted his life to bring God glory. He wanted those who had known and followed him to see God's faithfulness. How are you letting the people around you see what God has done in your life?
3. "Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left." (v.6)
  - This instruction is the crux of the information Joshua gives to the Israelite leaders. Summarized: Keep your focus on God and obey his instruction. This is a theme which has followed Joshua throughout his life. Is there a recurrent theme in your walk with God? Do you have a life verse that guides you?
  - Joshua knew these people's strengths and weaknesses, and he knew they needed a constant reminder to follow God's instruction... as do we. What routines or systems are in place in your life to keep God's word fresh in your mind and heart?
  - It takes courage to obey God. Has God ever asked you to do something you didn't understand, or something that scared you? What did you learn from that experience about God?
4. After telling them what to do, he reminds them what not to do and tells them the consequences for disobedience (v7-16)
  - Joshua commands the people to love the Lord and not to associate with the those living in the land. We are also told to be in the world but not of the world (James 4:4, 1 John 2:15, Matthew 6:24). How does loving God and rejecting the things of the world look in your life?
  - What does it mean to have a relationship based on love? How is that different than other relationships, and how does that apply to your relationship with God?

**Live it Out**

- Is your relationship with God based on loving Him for who He is, or on what He can do for you? Ask God to help you move to a fuller, more love-based relationship with Him.
- We are blessed with the ability to see what comes next for the Israelites. Are you watching someone take a step “to the right or to the left?” How can you help them get back on track?
- What can you do today to set yourself up for spiritual success?