

Bible Study: St. John's – West Bend

November 16/17, 2021

Pastor Jeff Hesse



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Discipleship Stories/Opening Prayer

Opening Conversation:

- How do you define “happiness”? “Joy”? Where does true joy come from? What’s the difference between the two?
- How do you define “serving”? What’s involved in serving?
- Now... combine “joy” and “serving”. What comes to your mind?
- Can you serve without joy? Why would joy be important to a follower of Jesus?

Read: Joshua 1:1-9

- Have you ever heard about “Next Man Up” in reference to football teams (i.e. like the GB Packers)? What is the “next man up” moment in this text?
- Who is Joshua? #3 in command (YHWH, Moses, then Joshua), a military leader called to fight and conquer, Moses’s replacement).
- Where is the joy in this text? Where is the serving? What do you think is going through Joshua’s mind/soul in God’s call?
- Is serving easy? Is it supposed to be? What are two major commands, words of encouragement from the LORD to Joshua? Be _____ and _____. What is God really saying here (multiple times)?
- [Read verse 5](#). How might we find joy in serving by remembering what the LORD told Joshua in this verse. Is God with you?
- How might the experience of Joshua connect with you? Do you ever feel like a “Joshua”? When?

Read: Romans 12:3-8

- What jumps out at you here about joy in serving?
- Is everybody the same? Is this by God’s design?
- What about joy in serving in the Church and this joyful service effecting your *Household of Faith*?
- What about your community... job... when you are shopping, vacationing... is serving with joy *“Discipleship in as Many Places as Possible”*?
- Have you ever thought of serving more somewhere? What has stopped you? Yourself? Others? Your emotions, laziness, confidence, fears?
- Re-read Joshua 1:9... do you believe what God has to say to those He calls to serve?

Read: Mark 1:16-20

- Is God’s call to serve always convenient? What about seriously disruptive?
- How did these fishermen respond to God’s call? What do you think Zebedee had to deal with?
- Three of these four fishermen became part of Christ’s inner circle (Peter, James and John). How did things work out for them in this “life of service”... was there always happiness? But... was there joy? And what did this “joy in serving ”really mean to them, to you, and all who have heard their message for 2,000 years?
- Do you have a generational impact... a splash... Joy in Serving?

Final Reflections

- Where has God been calling you to serve... joyfully?
- Next “man” up! Look for opportunities this week to serve... with joy!

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them...

(Romans 12:6a)

Closing Prayer