

## Times of Uncertainty – Joshua

What am I going to do now? Even with the new government printed *Stay At Home Order*, many people are still uncertain of what they can or cannot do? The Fond du Lac police department has encouraged people; *To Not* call them to find out if they should go into work or if their place of work is considered an essential business, *To Not* call them to find out where is the safest place to go for a walk, *To Not* call them to find out what restaurants are still open, which ones still deliver or only have drive through. Even though the new *Safe At Home Order* does its best to give safety guidelines, it does not perfectly clarify everything. Even the time frame is uncertain, as page 16 of the new order concludes “This Order shall become effective at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and will remain in effect until 8:00 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020, or until a superseding order is issued.” Are we the way we are until April 24<sup>th</sup>? Could it be shorter? Could it be longer? Everything still is so uncertain.

The nation of Israel had no uncertainty as to who was leading them and what was expected of them. They were led by Moses, God’s chosen leader. They were guided by God’s law that gave clear requirements as to their societal life, worship life, and morality. Israel had just come out of Egyptian slavery and were trying to form a new nation from scratch. Not an easy thing to do. They needed a direct commander and they needed direct regulations and principles to follow.

Moses was Israel’s leader. He was their judicial system. He was their military strategist. He was their daily means provider. He was their spiritual prophet. For 40 years, Moses was “the guy” that ran everything for the nation of 2 million Israelites as they wandered around in the wilderness and brought them to the verge of the promised land. But Moses would not lead the Israelites into the promised land, that would be Joshua’s job.

Joshua had been Moses’ aide since his youth. Joshua saw how Moses had led Israel and now he would have to do the same. Joshua had big shoes to fill. There was no doubt the Lord had chosen Joshua to succeed Moses. There was no doubt about what God wanted from Joshua. Joshua’s great uncertainty came as he looked at himself. Could he do this? Could he lead? To settle Joshua’s uncertainty, 6 times either the Lord himself or the Lord through Moses uttered the words “*Be strong and courageous*” followed by “*for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*”

The Lord would be with Joshua as he led Israel into the promised land. Joshua would display compassion as he met the needs of the people. Joshua would display courage as he led Israel into battle. Joshua would display wisdom as he divided up the promised land and settled God’s people. Joshua would display faithfulness as he upheld the Law of God among the people. Joshua was Israel’s next great leader, not because he was great, but because God is great.

Our great God still goes before us today. Even amidst secular authorities and threatening viruses, our God reigns. We are his people bought with the blood of his precious Son. We are his holy nation declared forgiven through Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. We are his children and so heirs of eternal life in the kingdom of his heaven. “*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*” (Deuteronomy 31:6)

**Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Joshua 1 as today’s Scripture lesson.**

Blessings to you and your families,  
Pastor Guse