

Do not Fear – You're Never Alone

Text : **Joshua 1: 1-9 , Hebrews 13: 5-8**

Slide # 1

INTRODUCTION :

A. I want to start off with a question :

1. Where do you call home ? (*Most of us have moved, but where is home ?*) Slide # 2
2. File the answer in your mind until we revisit it later in this lesson. Slide # 3

B. Most prosperous nation in the history of the planet.

1. At 23K, our poverty level is higher than the standard of the wealthy in many nations.
2. The average American family is worth \$125, 000.
3. The average American family owes \$15, 000 in credit card debt. (*excessive desire*) Slide # 4

C. All of this wealth has not cured social ills or made us satisfied.

1. We average about 5.5 Million robberies each year. Slide # 5
2. At the end of 2011 :
 - a. 2,266,800 people were in jail.
 - b. Additionally, 6,977,700 people were on probation or on parole.
 - c. Highest prison population in the world ... 3% (*9,244,500 under supervision*)

D. Great wealth has not made Americans a happy people.

1. We are known around the world as angry complainers. (*The Ugly American*)
2. 750, 000 people attempt suicide each year and 30, 000 succeed.
3. 1 out of every 9 or 10 people in the U.S. are depressed. (*60% of suicides*)
4. An estimated 15% of Americans are alcohol dependant.
5. Highest rate of illegal drug use in the entire world. (*CBS reports 42% use marijuana*) Slide # 6

E. Even in this age of social media, loneliness is one of America's great problems.

1. Studies show that social media adds to the problem of loneliness. (*Indirect com.*)
2. Loneliness makes people increasingly materialistic.
 - a. We try to replace people with things.
 - b. When we are down, we go shopping instead of turning to a friend.
3. People in America have forgotten how to make and to maintain close relationships.
 - a. It takes time to build relationships and we are too busy for others.
 - b. Americans move more often than any other country. (*exacerbated the problem*)
 - c. Some try to hang on to their children because they have no other close friends.

When calamity strikes social media leaves one alone.

One can't feel a hug that comes by text, tweet or email.

One is left feeling alone, frustrated and abandoned.

I. The Christian never faces calamity alone.

A. God never leaves His people alone. (*He dwells within and among us .. Col. 1:27*)

1. When Israel was about to take the Promised Land God reassured them : **Slide # 8**

**Deut. 31: 6 – Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them,
for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you.
He will not fail you or forsake you.**

2. Elijah thought he was the only follower of God left in Israel. **Slide # 9**

a. **I Kings 18: 22 – Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left a
prophet of the Lord, but Baal’s prophets are 450 men.**

b. But God reassured him : **Slide # 10**

**I Kings 19:18 – Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not
bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.**

3. Even when Israel thought God had forsaken them he had not. **Slide # 11**

a. **Isa. 49: 14 – But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me,
and the Lord has forgotten me.”**

b. God responded to their fears saying : **Slide # 12**

**Isa. 49: 15-16 “Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion
on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not
forget you. 16 Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My
hands; Your walls are continually before Me.”**

B. God gives Christians the same assurance that He gave Israel of old. **Slide # 13**

1. We are assured that the character of God never changes.

a. The God of the Old Testament is still the God of the New Testament.

b. **Heb. 13: 8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

2. The Hebrew writer urges Christians to lead sanctified lives regardless of threats.

a. The life advocated in vs 1-5 exposed them to oppression and persecution. **Slide # 14**

b. **Heb. 13: 5 – 6 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money,
being content with what you have; for He Himself has said,
“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,” 6 so that
we confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.
What will man do to me?”**

3. Living the Christian life will always alienate one from the world. Slide # 15
 - a. Christians are commanded to **BE** light.
Matt. 5:14 – **You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;**
 - b. Those who do not seek righteousness do not like those who do.
John 3: 20 – **For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**
 - c. Christian are commanded to separate themselves from evil.
Eph. 5: 11 – **Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;**
 - d. Christians cannot even discuss some of the sins practiced by people of the world.
Eph. 5: 12 – **for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.**
 - e. This puts Christians in opposition to much of pop culture and it will seek to force us to conform. Slide # 16
I Tim. 3: 12 – **Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**

II. Satan will seek to overwhelm the Christian when he is most vulnerable. Slide # 17 Slide # 18

- A. **Matt. 4 ... Satan made an attack on Jesus while He was at His weakest point.**
 1. Jesus was just beginning His earthly ministry.
 2. Satan came to Jesus after He was weak from hunger.
 3. His first temptation involved that which Jesus most needed ... food.

*** *Satan's most vicious attacks come when we are most vulnerable.*** Slide # 19
- B. **Job was persecuted by Satan because he was righteous.**
 1. Job in no way deserved the evil that was done to him.
 2. His best friends in the whole world thought he must have done wicked things.
 3. Job did not understand why he was suffering and God never told him. (*even after*)

*** *Satan's attacks against us do not indicate we have done wrong.***

 - a. Just the opposite may be true.
 - b. Satan is loathed to see God glorified. (*Job's faithfulness glorified God.*)
- C. **God never leaves you to battle Satan alone.**
 1. Remember : God does no evil and never tempts anyone else to do evil.
 - a. **James 1: 13** – **Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.**

- b. The good and holy God sends only good things. (*always .. consistently*)
James 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
2. Even in our darkest hour, God is with us.
- a. Remember the siege of Samaria in Israel. (**II Kg. 6**)
- b. The enemy from Aram had them surrounded, but God had Ben-hadad's army surrounded . Slide # 20
- II Kings 6: 17** – Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (Slide @ c. below -> Slide # 21)
- c. When the devil oppresses and it looks like all is lost, remember God is with us.
Heb. 1: 13-14 But to which of the angels has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Your enemies A footstool for Your feet"? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?
3. Jesus, the God who cannot lie, promised He would always be with us. Slide # 22
Matt. 28: 20 – teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Cf – **Rm 8: 11**
- No matter how dark may seem the day glorify God; He's watching over you*
4. Satan will do his best, but he cannot separate us from God. Slide # 23
1. **Rom 8: 31-39** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. God will not allow Satan to take us by force, but He allows us the choice to leave.
- * Love can never be forcibly taken; it must be freely given. LOVE GOD !!**

III. With every task, God enables us to stand and accomplish it.

Slide # 24

A. God promised Joshua that He would be with him every step of the way.

1. **Josh. 1: 9** – Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous!
Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go.

Slide # 25

2. Joshua was required to trust God, but also to GO take the land. (*some died*)

Slide # 26

B. Solomon was promised that God would be with him until the temple was built.

1. **I Chron. 28: 20** – Then David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished.

2. Solomon was required to do the work, but God protected the nation while he did.

C. Christians are required to spread the gospel wherever they go, but we're promised God's companionship every step of the way.

Slide # 27

1. **Matt. 28: 18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
(*The age will end when Jesus returns.*)

2. The command is based upon the Lordship of Jesus. “All authority”

- a. Being “LORD” means that Jesus rules in our lives.

Luke 6: 46 – Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?

- b. Therefore, not to “make disciples” is to deny Jesus as Lord.

3. Jesus being with us does not guarantee that we won't be persecuted or killed.

- a. Even today many in this world are being killed by muslims for the name of Christ.
 - b. If we advocate Christ with zeal we will be opposed by Satan's disciples.
 - c. While taking the Promised Land many died in battle and ALL Christians will die, **but** ALL Christians will be raised to eternal glory with God in Heaven.

* Where do you call home ?

Slide # 28

D. Christians must realize that this world is not our home.

Slide # 29

1. Man is made in the image of God ... body, soul and spirit ... we are eternal beings.

2. This body is merely a tent to be used on a journey.

Slide # 30

II Cor. 5: 1 For we know that if the **earthly tent** which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For indeed in this *house* we groan, longing to be clothed with our **dwelling from heaven**, **3** inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. **4** For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. **5** Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

6 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight — **8** we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. **9** Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, **we persuade men**, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

- a. The purpose of the journey is to glorify our creator by proclaiming Him to others.
- b. This tent wears out as the journey nears a close.
- c. The objective of the journey is to reach our heavenly home.

Slide # 31

CONCLUSION :

A. Our challenge in this world is to keep our eyes focused on our destination.

- 1. We often get so focused on the temporary that we lose sight of the eternal.
- 2. We lay up treasures and build lives that will end while neglecting our true home.
- 3. We concern ourselves with relationships that are temporary while neglecting God.

B. Jesus powerfully preached this message while on earth. (Matt. 10, Luke 12)

- 1. Don't put anyone or anything before me.
- 2. Don't worry about this life; lay up treasures in Heaven.
- 3. Don't worry about what happens to this earthly body, be concerned about your soul.

C. Do not fear what men can do to you, serve Me faithfully.

Rev. 2: 10 – **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Lesson Texts :**Joshua 1: 1-9**

1 Now it came about after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' servant, saying, **2** "Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. **3** Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses. **4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon, even as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and as far as the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. **5** No man will *be able to* stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. **7** Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. **8** This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Hebrews 13: 5-8

5 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," **6** so that we confidently say, The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?" **7** Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. **8** Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

Songs :

Hold To God's Unchanging Hand
Under His Wings
Does Jesus Care
We Have An Anchor
His Eye Is On The Sparrow