

THE RADICAL US, WEEK 3

Scripture used: [Joshua 1:9 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon continued to explore the question “How should we as Jesus followers act during this global pandemic?” Should we give in to fear, and how everything seems overwhelming? Or should we trust in God, and in His ability to work out His redemptive purpose for the world? As hard as things seem for us, Joshua had it worse. His mentor Moses had just died, and now God said it was his responsibility to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Joshua was gripped by fear, doubt, and anxiety. God’s said the same thing to him over and over: be strong and courageous. Yes, it would be hard. His people would suffer. But they would also triumph, so long as they stayed committed to God and His plan. This is the same message that applies to us, thousands of years later. God is in control. We must be strong & courageous, trusting in Him no matter what obstacles we face along the way. [Philippians 4:13 \(NLT\)](#) reminds us that we “can do everything through Christ, who gives [us] strength.”

KEY POINTS

- 1) God tells us to be strong & courageous.** Like Joshua, God asks each of us to be a part of His mission. He promises us great rewards, but still expects us to work for them. God gave the Israelites their land when Moses died, as we read in [Joshua 1:2 \(NLT\)](#). But the hard part was just beginning! Joshua had to lead the people against fierce enemies. They had to trust completely in God, otherwise they would be defeated.
 - a. Resilience is another way of saying strength & courage.** This is the quality of bouncing back, no matter what. God is telling all of us around the world: “Be resilient!” We may face harder times in the coming weeks and months. There is no guarantee that we won’t have health problems, or financial problems, or family problems.
 - b. Our resilience is based on Biblical word resurrection.** Resurrection is what God does when the worst thing we can imagine occurs. That’s what Easter is all about! God will not abandon the world, or any of us. While there may be tougher times ahead, it does not matter. God is the author and finisher of the universe, the Alpha and the Omega. Whatever is written in this chapter of life, God has the last word. We can trust in His promise of everlasting life, which comes from the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) God will use the strong & courageous to do great things.** History is full of examples of people who were used by God. Pastor Hurmon is using the example of Joshua, who led his people to the Promised Land. David was overlooked by his own father, then went on to become the mightiest king of Israel. Esther was chosen as queen for her beauty, but then proved she had the courage to risk death to save her people. The United States was torn apart by a Civil War, and only brought together by Abraham Lincoln. A very religious man, [Lincoln said as he left Illinois for Washington DC to become President](#) “without the assistance of that divine being, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail.”
- 3) We will feel fear even if we’re strong & courageous.** Every single person who is called by God will feel fear. The Lord asks us to commit to Him, and to His mission. This takes us out of our comfort zone, and we feel afraid. But the fear isn’t bad. [Proverbs 9:10 \(NKJV\)](#) reminds us that fear of God “is the beginning of wisdom.” It’s the starting point, not the finish line. We must act, even while we’re afraid!

DISCUSSION

- 1) HEAR** - God gave the Israelites the Promised Land but it was up to them to claim it. Joshua had to lead his people through war and sacrifice, knowing that ultimately God’s plan would prevail. That is why Joshua had to be strong and courageous. How do you think your community will benefit if you are also strong and courageous like Joshua was?
- 2) UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon gave us a simple formula to remember. I + God = Enough. Which fears and anxieties do you have? Where do you need to be reminded that you have God, and that is enough?
- 3) DO** - All of us at NBCC can be a light unto the world. First, we are spreading our wealth - \$85,000 - to a variety of worthy causes. Consider [giving whatever you can](#) to support this effort to strengthen the Bay Area during this crisis. Second, we are hosting [an online Easter gathering](#). Consider inviting whoever you know is struggling and in need of Jesus’ message of hope and redemption!