

## “FOUND IN THE FIGHT”

Date: June 23, 2019

Speaker: Ashlei Wells Tellis



**I find this week’s symbol of the sword so reassuring because it reminds me that He doesn’t prevent you from facing a battle, but He will always equip you with what you’ll need for the fight.**

**Perhaps one of the most notable things about Joshua was that he was a fighter.**

- Joshua and Moses coming down from the mountain. They heard the Israelites yelling. Turns out they were actually partying but for a fighter like Joshua, it sounded like war.

*(Vs) Exodus 32:17-18(NIV) – When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.” Moses replied, “It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear.”*

**Joshua was prepared for a fight, but there is no fight like the one you don’t see coming.**

- Quickenings are often unpredictable and unforeseen moments that have the ability to knock even the strongest fighters to their knees.

**Today, I want to dive into one of the quickenings experienced by Joshua.**

*(Vs) Joshua 1:1-9 (NIV) – “1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

**Joshua and the children of Israel were in a pattern of wandering the desert for 40 years when God interrupts their rhythm and directs them to advance. God says to Joshua...**

*(Vs) Joshua 1:2 (NIV) – “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.*

**My servant Moses is dead.**

- Joshua and the children of Israel had been following Moses for 40 years and now, life as they had known it was no more.
- **Sometimes what once worked for you then, no longer works for you now...**

**Cross Over...God speaks to Joshua and says:**

*(Vs) Joshua 1:2 (NIV) – “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.*

- I love how the amplified version reads, it says:

*(Vs) Joshua 1:2 (AMP) – “Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise [to take his place], **cross over** this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.”*

**To “cross over” means to move from what is expected or previously known.**

- **Example :** The basketball maneuver where one unexpectedly dribbles the ball from one hand to another.
- God will often switch up His hand. He never changes, but His method does.

*(Vs) Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever...*

**The Pharisees had an issue with Jesus’ method because His methods didn’t follow tradition.**

- *(Vs) Luke 5:33 (NIV) ...* The Pharisees grumbled that Jesus’ disciples ate and drank when it was the custom to fast.
- Jesus responds by saying:

*(Vs) Luke 5:36 (NIV) – No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.*

*(Vs) Luke 5:37-38 (NIV) – And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. <sup>38</sup> No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.*

- When these moments of quickening occur, it's important to embrace that which looks unfamiliar. Sometimes this means crossing over into territory that is no longer familiar.

### **Be Strong and Courageous**

- God tells Joshua several times to be strong and Courageous...

*(Vs) Joshua 1:6 (NIV) – “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”*

*(Vs) Joshua 1:7 (NIV) – “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”*

*(Vs) Joshua 1:9 (NIV) – “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

### **Your fear doesn't necessarily stop you from winning; it stops you from showing up.**

- We often hear the saying, “The battle is not yours, it's the Lord's.”

*(Vs) 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 20:15 (NIV) – He said, “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.’”*

### **Just because the battle is fixed doesn't mean you don't have to show up for the fight. The enemy doesn't ...**

- Go after your promise; he attacks your perspective
- Go after your destiny; he wants your doubt
- Steal anything from you; he manipulates your mind to fear so that you rob yourself.
- God encourages Joshua to be strong, not as a means to make him feel more skilled to fight but to encourage him not to allow his fear to prevent him from showing up to the fight.

**Inheritance vs. Possession**

- God gave the Israelites the land, but they still had to go after it and possess it.
- Some blessings that God gives us still have adversaries attached to them which we are challenged to overcome.
- Just because you have to fight doesn't mean that it's not from God.

**Sometimes your voice can do more for you than your hand...**

- As you continue reading, the Israelites fought their very first battle (Jericho) under the leadership of Joshua - with their voice.
- Half the battle is overcoming the words of your mouth. What are you speaking over your situation?
- Just as you can shatter glass with your voice, you can shatter the constraints of your heaviness, the constraints of your bondage and fear.

*(Vs) Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) "Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit."*

- Let the intensity of your worship match the intensity of your fight!