

Life is Filled with Swift Transition: Move Your Feet

Joshua 1:1-5

January 9, 2013 Bible Study

SERMON SUMMARY. Our lives are filled with many transitions. Life, death, birth ... graduation ... retirement and everything in-between. Sometimes, we find ourselves stuck in the transitions. But, we've got to know that life and time continue to march forward even when we are stagnant. We've got to get up, and move our feet. In this text the community of faith was confronted with a major transition. Moses their leader was dead. How would they respond? God implored them to move, to remember his promises and to act on them. We need to do the same. Life is filled with swift transitions, but, just because things change does not mean things stop. Trust the promises of God; move your feet.

SWIFT TRANSITION (v1). The first verse sets the stage for this narrative in the life of the people. Moses was their leader and their liberator (see Exodus 14:31). He has died and the Lord is preparing to speak to the future. It is a time a great transition for the people of God, and the next generation.

- What are some of the great transitions that we experience over the course of our lives (both “good” and “bad”)?
- Who might struggle in these times of transition?
- How do transitions make us feel?
- We see, in this time of transition, God is preparing to speak to Joshua - the next generation. Why is this important? What is significant about God speaking to the next generation?

GOD SAYS GET READY (v2). Remember, this whole community is in a time of dramatic transition. It is important to see what God has to say. He says two things: Moses is dead, and . . . Get ready.

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- Why do we think that God speaks so directly to the reality that Moses is dead?
- What are some ways people struggle in transitions?
- Do you ever see (or struggle with) refusal to accept the transitions in life? Ever get stuck in transition?
- Could you envision Joshua and the people getting stuck at the death of Moses (think about the deaths of Malcolm, Dr. King and the Kennedys in the 60s)? How might they/we avoid this?

MOVE YOUR FEET (V3-5). God has made promises to past and future generations. Some of them come to pass in one generation, some of them come to pass in the future - but his promises will be! However, we cannot just sit back and wait on God. Even in times of transition (good and bad) we have to move our feet. God will not pick us up - regardless of our generation - and carry us to our destiny. We must be prepared to take some action.

- What is the first promise God makes to Joshua, the new generation, in verse 3?
- What does Joshua need to do?
- To whom had God previously made this promise? What is the significance of him making it to Moses and then to Joshua (remember, He will sometimes fulfill his vision in future generations).
- What does it mean to “move our feet” in pursuit of God’s vision and promise? What are some ways that we fail to move? Is it sometimes hard in transition? Trust God.
- What other promises that we see that God makes to God’s people and to us in verses 3-5?