**It’s Time to Cross Over**

(Joshua 1:8-9 KJV)

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.*

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ave you ever waited for something a long time? Sure, we all have! So, It’s important for us to try and remember the emotions that surrounded those “waiting times,” so let me give you a few reminders to help you re-create that feeling in your mind.

How about this one: Do you remember when you were in the drive through and you waited and waited and waited for someone to come over the intercom and take your order? If you’re like me, the time seemed to slow to almost a standstill between the intercom and the cashier’s window and then finally the takeout window!

In the setting of the chapter it’s time for Israel to move from the wilderness and move forward into the promise land of Canaan. It’s been a long time coming and now the waiting is over. It’s time for the promised blessing to be fulfilled.

Here we zoom into the life of Joshua under God’s spiritual microscope. Here is the servant of Moses. He had been where Moses had been, done what Moses has done; and carefully watched the leadership of Moses during his many years. Moses had been the leader; Joshua had been the servant and now Moses was dead. There was no opportunity to send Moses a get well card. No time celebrate Moses’ death and speak encouraging words; nor time to bring flowers to place upon his grave although it couldn’t be found. In fact, God took Moses’ body and buried him so no one would make a shrine out of him.

The Israelites thought surely that Moses would be the one who would lead them into the Promised Land. But, Moses was now dead at 102 years of age because of his disobedience in striking the rock in Meribah. He did not glorify God and therefore could not go into the Promised Land. Here are Moses’ people witnessing their powerful leader’s death. They have a long road ahead of them in confronting a daunting task of crossing the Jordan and conquering Jericho. And Joshua rises up amongst the people to announce, “I’m next in line.”

Even when God’s powerful, proficient and prestigious leaders pass on. God continues with his plans - God always has someone he can use to accomplish his purposes. Since we do not know or understand who God will choose to use today, each of God’s servants should always consider himself to be “in training” for God’s use.

1. **Joshua’s Faithful Obedience:**

God raised Joshua as Moses’ successor because he learned from Moses and supported Moses as his right-hand man. Joshua obeyed Moses as his faithful assistant. More than anything else, he was a man of faith who supported Moses fully. Joshua was under the shadow of Moses for the last 40 years and now as a gray-haired general he was ready to step into his new role as a leader of the Canaan conquest. I can honestly admit that leaders are not born but are raised up with training and learning.