

Victory in the Valley

Read: Joshua 8:1-35

Main Idea: God transforms our failures into victories when we surrender to His guidance and truth, teaching us that obedience paves the path to success.

Key Verses: “And the LORD said to Joshua, ‘Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land’” (**Joshua 8:1**).

Key Principles

- When we have failed, God's first word to us is often “Do not fear,” because His grace meets us at the very place sin defeated us and calls us forward again.
- God's assurance that the victory is already won never cancels our duty to act, so we prepare and obey to prove that we truly trust His promise.
- Our places of past defeat are meant to be revisited and not lived in, so that we return to God's blueprint rather than remain prisoners of yesterday's failure.
- We do not bend God's unchanging Word to fit our lives but bend our lives to fit His Word, because obedience is the road to lasting victory.
- Worship belongs at the center of life even in the middle of mission, because remembering God's grace guards us from the pride that defeated us before.
- When we give God the first and the best, we can trust Him to provide everything else His people need.
- God's Word is meant for the whole household, so we make room for every member of our family and church to hear and respond to His truth.

Discussion

1. Why do you think God opens His instructions to Joshua with “Do not fear?” Where do you most need to hear that same word today?
2. How does the truth that God had already given Ai into Israel's hand shape the effort they put into preparing for battle? How should God's promises shape the effort we put into obeying Him?
3. What does Israel's unity and their willingness to follow an unusual battle plan teach us about trusting God's methods even when they do not match our own strategy?
4. What does it look like to persevere to the end, as Joshua held his hand outstretched until victory was complete, in an area where you want to quit?
5. Why do you think Israel paused to build an altar and hear the entire law read aloud right after a great victory? What keeps us from prioritizing worship when life is going well?
6. What is one specific step you can take this week to adjust your life to God's Word rather than adjusting God's Word to your life?

Prayer

- Pray for hearts to surrender to God's guidance so that He turns our failures into victory.
- Pray for:
 - Our church to faithfully proclaim and live under the whole counsel of God's Word.
 - Each of us to return to an area of past defeat and obey God fully there.
 - Neighbors who have not yet heard the gospel of second chances.

Victory in the Valley
Joshua 8

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| I. | <u>Trust</u> God's <u>promises</u>. | 8:1-8 |
| 1. | <u>Reject</u> your <u>fears</u> . | 8:1-2 |
| 2. | <u>Receive</u> His <u>direction</u> . | 8:3-8 |
| II. | <u>Join</u> God's <u>mission</u>. | 8:9-17 |
| 1. | <u>Move</u> in <u>unity</u> . | 8:9-13 |
| 2. | <u>Embrace</u> God's <u>plan</u> . | 8:14-17 |
| III. | <u>Experience</u> God's <u>victory</u>. | 8:18-29 |
| 1. | <u>Wait</u> on God's <u>timing</u> . | 8:18-23 |
| 2. | <u>Persevere</u> to the <u>end</u> . | 8:24-29 |
| IV. | <u>Obey</u> God's <u>Word</u>. | 8:30-35 |
| 1. | <u>Respond</u> with <u>worship</u> . | 8:30-31 |
| 2. | <u>Submit</u> in <u>humility</u> . | 8:32-35 |

NEXT WEEK:
Deceived but Delivered
Joshua 9