

Don't Delay

Read: Joshua 18:1-19:51

Main Idea: What God has promised you is worth pursuing now, because putting it off only keeps you from the life He has for you.

Key Verses: "So Joshua said to the people of Israel, 'How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?'"
(Joshua 18:3)

Key Principles

- Delay dressed up as patience is still disobedience, and the promise you keep putting off is the one you are quietly refusing.
- Worship is where God gathers His people, sends them out, and welcomes them back, so skipping the assembly makes His promises harder to claim.
- Your spiritual foot dragging is never a private matter, because other people are waiting on obedience you have not yet offered.
- God did not need a survey to know the land, but the surveyors needed one to see with their own eyes what His grace had already provided.
- Sin ignored in a family or a church hardens into a pattern that only the gospel can break, so deal with it while it's still small.
- The leader who takes his portion last shows a church what the greatness of Christ actually looks like.

Discussion

1. What does Joshua's question in 18:3 reveal about the difference between believing a promise and acting on it?
2. Why would seven tribes settle for waiting when the land was already theirs, and where does that same hesitation show up in your life?
3. Why did Joshua cast lots before the LORD instead of dividing the land himself, and what does that say about the decisions we face this week?
4. What does it say about God that He gave the small tribe of Simeon a home inside Judah's portion, and where could we be doing that for others?
5. What can we learn from the tribe of Dan, who gave up on the land God assigned them and went looking for something easier somewhere else?
6. What promise or assignment from God have you been putting off, and what step will you take this week to begin claiming it?

Prayer

- Pray that our church would stop waiting and start walking in what God has already given.
- Pray for:
 - Believers who have grown comfortable stopping short of full obedience to God.
 - Leaders who seek the Lord before they make decisions.
 - Families where a settled pattern of sin needs to be broken.

Don't Delay
Joshua 18 & 19

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| I. | <u>Answer the call</u> God has issued. | 18:1-3 |
| 1. | <u>Stop hesitating.</u> | 18:1-3 |
| 2. | <u>Start obeying.</u> | 18:4-7 |
| II. | <u>Pursue the plan</u> God has given. | 18:8-10 |
| 1. | <u>Act</u> on God's <u>wisdom</u> . | 18:8-9 |
| 2. | <u>Defer</u> to God's <u>direction</u> . | 18:10 |
| III. | <u>Claim the inheritance</u> God has provided. | 18:11-19:23 |
| 1. | <u>Own</u> your <u>calling</u> . | 18:11-28 |
| 2. | <u>Fulfill</u> your <u>purpose</u> . | 19:1-23 |
| IV. | <u>Finish the work</u> God has begun. | 19:24-51 |
| 1. | Keep going <u>when</u> it's <u>easy</u> . | 19:24-39 |
| 2. | Keep going <u>when</u> it's <u>hard</u> . | 19:40-48 |
| 3. | Keep going <u>until</u> it's <u>done</u> . | 19:49-51 |

NEXT WEEK:
Run for Refuge
Joshua 20