

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: May 22nd - 23rd, 2021

Title: Turn the Tassel

Text: Joshua 1:1-5

Target: Your life is a book filled with chapters that tell the story of your journey from beginning to end. Every chapter builds upon each other but were never intended to remain in forever. "Turn the Tassel" is a reminder that we serve a God of "new chapters!"

Getting Started: It'd be easy to dismiss a message entitled "Turn the Tassel" as one meant for graduating students, but the target statement assures us that this is for all people, as all people move from one chapter to the next in the story God has written for them. Before diving into the sermon questions, take some time to think about a time that you moved from one chapter to another in life (that moment may be now). How did God move, or how is He moving in that turning of the page? Has it been an easy transition, or a challenging one? What have you, or what are you learning from it?

- I. **Know His Pleasure for you:** "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, **the Lord said** to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant." (Vs. 1)
- A. **He has Chosen you (Witness):** "These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoseha the son of nun, **Joshua (Jehovah is Salvation).**" Numbers 13:16
 - B. **He has Prepared you (Warrior):** "So Moses said to Joshua, "**Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek.**" Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." (Ex. 17:9)
 - C. **He Speaks to you (Worshipper):** "Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, **would not depart from the tent.**" (Ex. 33:11)

Question #1: Psalm 147:11 says that "the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love." God truly does take pleasure in those who have placed their faith and trust in Him! Stepping into new chapters of life can be scary, as it was for Joshua, who's leader just died. God's Word reminds us that He delights in us, He's chosen us, prepared us, and He loves us so much He speaks to us. How do these truths speak comfort to you in a new chapter or season? Or, is it difficult for you to receive these truths?

- II. **Claim His Provision for you:** "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon **I have given to you.** Just as I promised to Moses." (Vs. 3)
- A. **It has been Given:** "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, **which I am giving to the people of Israel.** From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them." (Numbers 13:1-2)
 - B. **It has Goliath's:** "And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we **seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers,** and so we seemed to

them.” (Numbers 13:33)

C. **It has been Guaranteed:** “If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. **Their protection is removed from them and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.**” (Numbers 14:8-9)

Question #2: New chapters can bring anxiety, understandably so. We play out every scenario in our mind of what new challenges and needs may come our way. But we know that we serve Jehovah-Jireh, “the LORD will provide.” In the last question, we established that God takes pleasure in us, He *delights* in us. We see above in Numbers 14:8-9, that Joshua knew that if God delighted in the Israelites, He would provide for them. Paul told the Philippians that, “God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19) Knowing that God takes *pleasure* in you, and *provides* for you, how does this change the way you see new chapters? Do you find it hard to believe in either one of those truths? Why or why not?

III. **Rest in His Presence in you:** “No man shall be able to stand before you **all the days of your life.** Just as I was **with** Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.” (Vs. 5)

A. **Bestows Courage:** Immanuel, God **with** us (Matt. 1:23)

B. **Brings Comfort:** “And behold, I am **with** you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:20)

C. **Builds Confidence:** “What then shall we say to these things? If God is **for** us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Question #3: In Exodus 33:14, God told Moses, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” In John 15:5 Jesus tells His disciples, “Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” Without the presence of God *in* us, we can do nothing. But with His presence *in* us, we can do all things! If you were to live your life knowing His *pleasure* for you, claiming His *provision* for you, and resting in His *presence* for you, do you think that you would still walk in fear, anxiety, and hesitation when new chapters come your way? Looking at the takeaway statement below, how do you think practicing the above statements will help you see the calling on your life *embracing* you? If you’re already aware of His conviction embracing you, share that conviction with your group.

Take Away: The calling on your life is more than a cause to embrace it is a conviction that embraces you.

Bonus Resource: Listen to the song, [“Yes and Amen” by Maverick City](#) to be reminded of God’s faithfulness, pleasure, provision, and presence in your life.