**Studies in the Book of Joshua 1 – What will you leave behind? (Joshua 1:1-9)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:1-9)

# Introduction

The book of Joshua is about the coming out of God’s people from the dessert to reclaim the Promised Land, what God has promised them. As Moses had passed on the legacy to Joshua, what do we do with our legacy? We need to think what we, as a generation, leave behind in the years to come. Everyone leaves behind a legacy. Legacy is a heritage that we leave behind. The question is, what type of legacy do we leave behind?

A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children, but a sinner’s wealth is stored up for the righteous. (Proverbs 13:22) (NIV)

A good life gets passed on to the grandchildren; ill-gotten wealth ends up with good people. (Proverbs 13:22) (The Message)

We are building DUMC not for us, but for our children, and our children’s children. What will you be remembered by? Martin Luther the reformist was asked once on what would he do if he knew that he was going to die tomorrow? Martin Luther simply said, “I will go out and plant a tree.” He would leave behind a legacy that would go on and on into the future.

**The BIG Idea**

The best thing we can leave behind is a lasting Godly legacy.

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. (Joshua 1:1-2)

Joshua was about 80 years old when he was commissioned as a leader. You are never too old to lead. He died at 110 years old. He was 40 years old when he was sent out as a spy. Only Joshua, Caleb and the next generation got into the Promised Land. After 40 years of wandering, Joshua took over the leadership of Israel. When he took over the leadership of Israel, God gave Joshua clear instructions on what he needed to do. We need to leave behind clarity for the next generation, not only for the family but also for the church.

# Clarity about God’s **Call**

I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. (Joshua 1:3-4)

# God gave precise instructions. If we are not clear about the call of God, then we are chasing the wind and not clear in what we do. We should not aim for the wrong thing. How do we make God laugh? Someone said, by telling God our plans!

# There was this article written by a palliative nurse, on the top five regrets from people who are dying:

# I wish I had the courage to live life true to myself and not what others expected of me.

# I wish I had not worked so hard.

# I wish I had the courage to express my feelings.

# I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

# I wish I had let myself be happier.

# Image result for ponderingPastor Chris shared that as a young man, he thought about death, and has wrote out his funeral program and what his loved ones would say about him. He began to live out those things that he had written out, so that when he dies, he would have lived his life intentionally. Life must be intentional. What then do we need to teach our children? ‘Children’ does not mean biological children only, but also biological children.

# Teach your children to **hear** the voice of God and to discern His will.

# Clarity about God’s **Presence**

No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Joshua 1:5)

Do our children have the assurance that God will never leave them nor forsake them? As God was with me, God will also be with you and our children. Do we have a testimony that builds faith in our children?

Pastor Chris shared the testimony of this young lady, who faced several challenges in life. She found the man of her dreams, and was excited to be getting married. A week before her wedding, she fell critically ill and was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) at the hospital. Doctors were not sure if she would be well enough in order to attend her own big day! Her fiancé still wants to marry her. But God was faithful. Many people prayed and believed God for a miracle; she was discharged from ICU the day before her wedding, and her beautiful wedding took place successfully to God’s glory and faithfulness!

# What’s your personal story of God’s faithfulness? What is our heart attitude towards God? Would we be able to trust Him? God will come through for us.

# In 2005, before moving to Dream Centre, the church needed RM43 million to move to the new facility. The problem was, they only had RM10 million and needed to look for the balance RM33 million. Can we trust God by faith that He will come through? God did come through! God’s people just gave, and the entire sum was repaid. If God can provide for the church, God can also provide for you.

# Teach your children to **experience** the Presence of God.

# We can’t teach the presence of God to our children if we don’t live it out in our lives.

# Clarity about God’s **Enabling**

# Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. (Joshua 1:6)

# Image result for enablerThe laws were not mentioned in the book of Joshua. The book of Joshua is about the practical outworking of what God has already promised. How do we hear God’s call, how do we practice the presence of God, and how do we work out His promises? Our children would be watching us.

# In the context of the church, the younger generation would be watching us.

# One simple principle expressed in two ways:

# Follow me, you win. **Leave** me you lose

# Obedience brings blessings. **Disobedience** brings curses.

# These are simple principles of God and yet some of us are unable to do it. It is not going to be easy to follow God, but He will stretch us, He will enable us, because every battle fought in the book of Joshua were fought with impossible odds, and won supernaturally because God’s hands were in them.

# **Divine** encouragement “Be strong and very courageous” 3x. (verses 6, 7 and 9)

# Are you facing problems in life right now? Hear the Holy Spirit telling you to be strong, be courageous!

# **Be strong and courageous**, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. (Joshua 1:6)

# Image result for courageous“**Be strong and very courageous**. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and courageous**. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1: 7 – 9)

# The bigger the problem, the bigger the building of faith. Hear His voice, and hear His voice clearly. We can build big faith because we have a big God. Our children must see that our God is a big God. There must also be the element of human enthusiasm in coming alongside our church leaders.

# Teach your children to experience the **enabling** of God.

# Conclusion

# We have the clarity of God’s call, hear Him clearly. Learn to think about the ending. When we know how we are going to die, we would know how to live. It is never too late to hear the call of God. There must a clarity of God’s presence. Is there something God is calling you to do in your life right now? Trust Him. Be strong, be courageous. As you do it, you trust God to enable you in your life. As we build this church, let’s pray that our children enter the land of flowing milk and honey. There are many interpretations to milk and honey; one interpretation is our children may find significance in their lives, because of what we do here. Our children will find purpose, peace and rest. Our children will experience the abundance of God, that He is the provider. Let’s encourage one another to leave behind a godly legacy. Will we run together to build a godly legacy for our children?

# How do we leave a legacy behind? The Great Commission is the way we leave our legacy behind.

# **Promised Land**

# **Matthew 28: 18 – 20**

# Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The key is discipleship, building a legacy culture.

Pastor Chris shared a video clip of a glimpse of what God gave him on what discipleship is about. It shows the video of several little girls, spontaneously emulating the dancers dancing at the stage during one of DUMC’s worship celebration.

Let’s pray that everyone in DUMC is discipling someone, because we are all going to leave a legacy behind!



Sermon Summary and prayer points contributed by May Ng



SERMON: **Studies in the Book of Joshua 1 – What will you leave behind?**

**Pray:**

* Fear to be instilled among Christians to step up to what God has called them to do and be.
* Conviction that how we live our lives serves as an example for the younger generation.
* The younger generation to realise that they have a pivotal role to play in shaping the future.
* The older generation to take discipleship seriously, in mentoring and leading the younger generation.
* Holy Spirit’s presence in all families in cultivating a sense of leadership and instilling godly values in children.
* God’s love to be poured out in ensuring that God is the Enabler in empowering His children to do what He has called them out to do.

***And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)***

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: The Marriage Course**

***The 7-week Marriage Course is scheduled to commence on 21 August 2016, to be held at Dream Centre.***

**Pray:**

* Society to realise that a healthy marriage is the bedrock of society.
* Marriages to thrive so that godly children can be raised as a result.
* Enthusiasm to complete the course from all participants.
* Attendees to sign up to serve in the Marriage Course upon graduation.
* Demand for the Marriage Course to be held regularly.

***Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*** ***(Jeremiah 29:13)***

MALAYSIA MY NATION: Guns and Murders

***There has been a spate of killings and murders involving guns in Malaysia recently.***

**Pray:**

* The authorities to be strict in law enforcement over the issuance of license to possess weapons.
* Safe environment for all generations to thrive in.
* Shutting out of negative influence from the media.
* People to exercise wisdom and caution in their daily activities.
* People to find safety and comfort in the Lord with no fear.
* Flooding of the Holy Spirit in all communities in Malaysia.

***The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion. (Psalm 11:5)***

* **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: LGBT Movement**

***The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and transsexual movement has worldwide influence in achieving social progress for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and transsexual people.***

**Pray:**

* Everyone to be treated with love, respect and dignity.
* The love of God to be poured out to those affected.
* Conviction from the Holy Spirit that the Living Word of the Bible is the truth to live by.
* The touch of God for them to realise that God made them perfectly.
* Social media to be used in a positive manner to propagate the love and will of God.

***Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. (Romans 1:26-27)***