

Message: “JOSHUA: Redemption & Restoration” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 3/6/22

Description: After Israel’s humiliating defeat by Ai, Israel easily gains the victory over their enemy. What changed? Sin in the camp was confronted, confessed, and eradicated with fierce punishment from God.

Key Scripture: Joshua 8:1-35

Takeaway / Application: When we sin and fall short of God’s glory, what steps can we take to restore our relationship with God? Joshua 8:30-35 gives us a biblical formula to bring us back into right standing with the Lord. To begin, read Psalm 37:23-24. This Scripture is a great reminder of God’s heart for us when we stray, fall, and miss the mark in our lives.

- **STEP ONE: REBUILD THE ALTAR.** Alexander Whyte said, *“The victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings.”* The first step that Joshua took to begin again and restore Israel to the Lord was to build an altar. For most Christians, this is the place they need to start. What about you? How is your prayer life? Active? Dormant? Inconsistent? Do you pray only for God’s blessing and protection or when you’re in a crisis—or do you pray because you love God and you want to spend time with your Lord and Savior and long for His presence? Read James 4:2-3.
- **STEP TWO: RESUME GIVING.** Prayer is the first step to restoration, but there’s more to the altar than just having a conversation with God. The altar is also for giving and sacrificing and surrendering of not just your heart, but your family, your future, your stuff—everything. Do you trust God enough to obey Him when it comes to giving and sacrificing? Take time to refresh God’s promise to you in Malachi 3:9-11.
- **STEP THREE: RESTORE THE AUTHORITY OF GOD’S WORD OVER YOUR LIFE AND FAMILY.** The Law God had given to Moses had to be reinstated and renewed with Israel over and over and over again. We’re no different. If prayer and giving and obedience to God and restored friendships are going last over the long haul—you must rely upon the Word of God to lead you and guide your family at every step of the journey. Read Isaiah 55:11. God says His word will not return to Him void and will accomplish what He desires. Is that truth showing in your life because of your submission to God’s Word?
- **STEP FOUR: REVIVE THE RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR LIFE.** Human relationships can bring the greatest joys and also the most severe pain into our lives—from the very same people! Read Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:13. Share with your group a testimony of how the Lord restored and revived a relationship in your life that had gone bad.