

God has a Plan

*And Joshua said,
“Ah, Sovereign Lord, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan
to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us?
If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan.
Oh, Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies?”*

Joshua 7:7

I wonder if you have ever been at the place where you have done what God has asked you to do, yet you have been met with failure or roadblocks that have left you frustrated. You hear verses like Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” And you think that maybe the Lord meant that for someone else. Your future is blocked, your hope is gone, you don’t seem to be prosperous and you seem to be in harms way. That is where Joshua was at. All this land flowing with milk and honey and they have just been pulverized by the Amorites.

Well, the first thing Joshua did was to go back to the Lord and ask Him why He had led them here to this place. One day I felt strongly that the Lord was calling me into the ministry. I wasn’t sure if I was going to be a missionary or a pastor, but something was up. I remember talking to my father who pastored for 40 years. I asked him how he knew he was called. He said, “You will know. The Lord will make it clear. But don’t go until you do know for sure because one day you will be in a situation that is very difficult and you will need to go back to the Lord and say, “Lord, this was your idea, this was your call, but what’s going on!” I’ve actually done that quite a few times. What about you? Are you where God wants you to be, yet you are encountering a major setback or difficulty? Go to the Lord, be a child in the hands of a Mighty God. He is faithful to His chosen ones. Ask for wisdom and strength. Remind the Lord that you are depending on Him. Release the situation totally to Him. Wait for him.

In this case Joshua found out that there was sin in the camp (verses 10-11). Have you ever been there? You’re following the Lord but you are allowing a sin area to go on unaddressed in your life? Whenever we allow continuous sin to go on without working on it to overcome it, we also allow the enemy to have a foothold in our lives. That will always bring defeat. Adversity is not always due to sin, but it can be. Examine your life. Be like David who prayed, “Test me, O Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind” Psalm 26:2. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you. The Spirit who can search out the heart of God can also search your heart and reveal to you what is not right before God.

Sometimes we blame our lack of joy on the Lord or think it’s because we are facing some difficult thing, but I have found that sometimes my lack of joy is because I am being displeasing to the Lord in some area of my life. Remember, the Lord will always lead you to victory, but He is concerned about your relationship with Him first and foremost.