

Organizing Victories out of Our Mistakes

#10 in a Series on Change, Joshua 8

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“Life, like war, is a series of mistakes, and a person is not the best Christian nor the best general who makes the fewest false steps. Poor mediocrity may secure that; but the person is the best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes. Forget mistakes; organize victories out of mistakes.”

F.H. Robertson, a British preacher in 1849

How can we turn tragedies into triumphs?

- 1. Victory comes when I have faith in God's Word.**

(Joshua 8:1-2)

What has led to Joshua's discouragement?

Encouragement from God

- Sometimes... *corrects*
“Do not be afraid....Do not be discouraged.” (8:1a)
- Sometimes... *directs*
“Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack....” (8:1b)
- Sometimes ... *affirms*
“For I have delivered into your hands....” (8:1c)

²For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did,; but the message they heard was of no value to them **because those who heard did not combing it with faith.** ³Now we who have believed enter that rest.”

Hebrews 4:2-3 (NIV)

2. **Victory comes when I** obey God's plan.
(Joshua 8:3-29)

Characteristics of God's Plans

- Requires us to *keep the big picture is in focus*
- Require us to *listen to Him*
- Requires *our participation*

3. **Victories comes when I** give myself to God.
(Joshua 8:30-35)

Giving myself to God is something...

... initiated by *my worship*
(Joshua 8:30)

... involves *my total self*
(Joshua 8:31; Romans 12:1-2)

... includes *my praise*
(Joshua 8:30)

... includes *my community*
(Joshua 8:33)

“²⁶See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse, ²⁷**the blessing if** you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; ²⁸**The curse if** you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.” **Deuteronomy 11:26-28** (NIV)