

Title: False Expectations Appearing Real - Joshua 18 1-10

Read:

¹⁻² Then the entire congregation of the People of Israel got together at Shiloh. They put up the Tent of Meeting. The land was under their control but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had yet to receive their inheritance.³⁻⁵ Joshua addressed the People of Israel: "How long are you going to sit around on your hands, putting off taking possession of the land that God, the God of your ancestors, has given you? Pick three men from each tribe so I can commission them. They will survey and map the land, showing the inheritance due each tribe, and report back to me. They will divide it into seven parts. Judah will stay in its territory in the south and the people of Joseph will keep to their place in the north."⁶ "You are responsible for preparing a survey map showing seven portions. Then bring it to me so that I can cast lots for you here in the presence of our God."⁷ "Only the Levites get no portion among you because the priesthood of God is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh already have their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan, given to them by Moses the servant of God."⁸ So the men set out. As they went out to survey the land, Joshua charged them: "Go. Survey the land and map it. Then come back to me and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh in the presence of God."⁹ So off the men went. They covered the ground and mapped the country by towns in a scroll. Then they reported back to Joshua at the camp at Shiloh.¹⁰ Joshua cast the lots for them at Shiloh in the presence of God. That's where Joshua divided up the land to the People of Israel, according to their tribal divisions.

Think:

We talked about Gods will requiring action by us before, and here Joshua even shows us how we do it. "How long are you going to wait?" He says. "Take the first step, do a survey of the land." Sure enough, once they start they find that things start moving. How often are we paralysed with fear, when it comes to taking the first step? Maybe, it is getting to know someone at school so that we can invite them on the youth weekend away. Maybe we are too afraid of what they might think or say, to take that step of asking them. Maybe we are afraid of asking that person at college, if we can pray for their troubles. Are we too afraid to take that step of offering Gods healing through prayer? I'm not beating up you guys; the oldest and wisest of adults also suffer from fear. But God would not have us be afraid; he wants us to have the heart of a lion. The book of Romans in the Bible tells us that we have not received the spirit of fear from God. A friend once told me that the letters in the word F.E.A.R stand for False Expectations Appearing Real. That's because more often than not, the things we are afraid of do not actually happen when we do take the first step. More often than not, those guys at school won't say anything for you to be afraid of, when you take that step of inviting them to a youth event. The person at college is likely to be thankful when you offer to pray for them. Taking the first step is maybe just what God wants you to do and he won't leave you alone to do it. And when Gods with you, we can know that our fears are definitely false expectations appearing real.

Pray:

Father please, take my fears and give me the peace to take the first step in the actions you would have me do. Amen.

Action:

If you have read or listen to this and are saying "yer but your don't understand," you might be right. Find someone you trust and talk and pray about your fears, don't let them get between you and Gods plan in your life. Bye.