

Main Passage: Joshua 1:1-9; Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 8:38-39

Theological Theme

For believers, God is with us *always*, and *nothing* can change that.

Introduction

- ? How often do you think about the reality of God being with you daily?
- What difference should this reality make in our lives? What gets in the way of this?

1. I Will Not Leave or Abandon You (Joshua 1:1-9)

This is just one of many Old Testament examples of God promising to be with His people (Isaiah 41:10; Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 43:1-2). In the ups and downs of human life, there is perhaps no greater comfort than God being with us. Joshua, on the precipice of the promised land, was surely comforted by the promise of God's presence.

- What reassurance did God offer Joshua in this passage? Why might that have been especially encouraging/needed for Him at that moment?
- When was a time you felt particularly in need of God's presence in your life?
- Application: How have you seen God stick with you in moments where you were especially worried or scared? How does that reality change your perspective on those moments?

2. I Am with You Always (Matthew 28:16-20)

Does it remind you of the passage we just read in Joshua? In Joshua, God sent the people out to occupy the promised land according to His will. Here in Matthew, Jesus was also sending His people out, but with a new mission: sharing the good news. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, and He desires for as many as possible to be saved by hearing this message and putting their faith in Him.

- This passage is likely familiar to us, but take a moment to carefully read it again. What stands out to you fresh from the Great Commission?
- What instruction and reassurance did Jesus offer His disciples? How does this compare to God's reassurance of Joshua in our previous passage?
- Application: How does it encourage you to share Jesus with others as you remember He has promised to be with you as you do?

3. Nothing Can Separate Us (Romans 8:38-39)

We've looked at some Old Testament promises from the Lord to be with His people, and at Jesus's promise to be with His disciples always. Paul reinforced this message in His letter to the Romans with a clear reminder: Nothing can separate us from God.

- What was Paul's "big idea" in this passage in Romans?
- How might that change the way we face daily life?
- Application: How does this give you hope for today? Where do you feel most in need of this hope right now?

Conclusion

- ? How has God demonstrated His presence in your life?
- How can we remind one another of the truth of God's presence, even and especially when it is hard to remember and believe?
- How does Jesus's promise to be with you always affect your confidence when it comes to sharing your faith? How does it relieve the pressure on you?

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