

Sermon Title:

“Tragedy to Triumph!” ~ Joshua 8:1-29

INTRODUCTION:

I. We Can Turn Tragedy into Triumph if We Trust God for a New Beginning vs. 8: 1, 2

A. We can start over when we hear God’s encouragement.

1. Why they had reason to be afraid.
 - a) They had just experienced defeat at the hands of a little city.
 - b) Now they were surrounded.
 - c) They had been demoralized.
2. What is the significance in Joshua of the phrase “fear not?”
 - a) Its significance in chapter one.
 - b) Its significance here.

B. We can start over when we know God’s plan.

1. Where do we see God’s plan today?
 - a) This story illustrates that dealing with sin is the secret of experiencing the power of God.
 - b) This story illustrates the need for dependence on God.
2. What do we do when the Bible does not give us clear direction about what to do?

C. We can start over when we claim God’s promise.

1. What was God’s promise to Joshua?
 - a) I will be with you. vs. 1:5, 9
 - b) I will give you success. vs. 1:3, 6, 7 8
2. What might have made Joshua think that God would not keep his promise?
3. What is God’s promise to us?
4. What might make us think that God will not keep his promise?

II. We Can Turn Tragedy into Triumph if We Trust God For a New Strategy vs. 8:3-13

A. How was this strategy different from the strategy of Jericho?

1. At Jericho there was one week of marches conducted in broad daylight—at Ai there was a covert night operation that prepared the way for a daylight attack.
2. At Jericho the whole army was united in the attack—at Ai the army was divided.
3. At Jericho God performed a mighty miracle—at Ai God used ordinary soldiers doing their ordinary tasks to give victory.

B. Why does God change tactics?

1. He knows we have a tendency to trust our experiences instead of trusting Him.
2. He knows we can assume we always have to have a miracle to prove that God is working.

III. We Can Turn Tragedy into Triumph If We Trust God For a New Victory vs. 8:14-29

A. How complete was the victory?

1. All the men of Ai and Bethel pursued Israel. vs. 14-17.
2. The city of Ai was burned. vs. 18-20
3. Ai’s army and people were destroyed. vs. 21-2
4. Ai’s king was slain. vs. 23, 29
5. Ai’s spoils were claimed. vs. 27

B. The significance of the memorial stones. vs. 29

1. The last memorial stones commemorated sin in the camp.
2. These stones spoke of victory.

CONCLUSION: