Living Sermons

A MESSAGE BY PASTOR MARCOS ANDRÉS NEHODA

BE STRONG AND OF A GOOD COURAGE

Joshua Chapter 1

JOSHUA 1:1-18

“The leader dies,
but God’s plan goes on.”

PASTOR MARCOS ANDRÉS NEHODA

Evangelical Christian Church “God First,” Sarandí, Buenos Aires • October 25, 2026

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Be Strong and of a Good Courage: Joshua Chapter 1

Preacher: Pastor Marcos Andrés Nehoda

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English edition, translated from the original Spanish



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This English edition is a translation of the original Spanish message, *Esfuérzate y sé valiente: Josué capítulo 1*, preached on October 25, 2026. The preacher read from the Spanish Reina-Valera 1960 Bible.

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FOREWORD

What happens to God's work when the man who led it dies? That is the question Pastor Marcos Andrés Nehoda, after 40 years at the head of the same congregation in Sarandí, in the province of Buenos Aires, sets before his church in this message on the first chapter of Joshua, preached on October 25, 2026.

Before entering the text, the pastor places his hearers in time: the burning bush, Mount Sinai, the twelve spies and the forty years in the wilderness. Then, verse by verse, he shows Joshua, the faithful servant God prepared for forty years, and a people called to conquer every place the sole of their foot would tread upon.

The tone is warm, practical and full of humor—the dog and the wolf, the broken spoon, the treasurer who would not pay without a voucher. But the call is serious: "Be strong and of a good courage," serve the Lord and not man, and do not stay on this side of the Jordan.

This edition was prepared from the transcript of the live message and translated from the Spanish. The preacher's words, order and voice have been preserved; only time stamps, fillers and unnecessary repetitions have been removed, punctuation has been corrected, and chapters and subheadings have been added. The choruses sung during the message are indicated by their titles.

Read it with your Bible open and, like Joshua, arise and cross your Jordan.

Wisdom Epsi
- The Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **at *the Church's Official YouTube Channel***

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MAIN MESSAGE

Begins Here

CHAPTER ONE

THREE CHAPTER ONES

From the first book, Genesis, to Revelation, chapter by chapter and verse by verse.

JEREMIAH, ISAIAH AND JOSHUA

JOSHUA, CHAPTER 1. These are three Sundays in which we have been looking at chapter 1 of different books: Jeremiah 1, Isaiah 1, and Joshua chapter 1. It reads like this, beginning from verse 1:

> **JOSHUA 1:1-18**
>
> *Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.*
>
> *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the*

law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it.

And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER, VERSE BY VERSE

I recently learned that brother César Vidal—who was here; you remember him—made an agreement with a church that I know only by video, right?, that over ten years they are going to meditate on the Word of God from the first book, Genesis, to Revelation, chapter by chapter and verse by verse. That is an extraordinary thing, isn't it? Well, we do some of these things with some books, right?

So I would like to place you a little in time.

CHAPTER TWO

THE BUSH THAT WAS NOT CONSUMED

God is holy, and in the presence of the Lord we must be filled with awe.

A MAN OF EIGHTY

YOU REMEMBER THAT when Moses was 80 years old, he was saying: "Well, I'm packing my bags; I'm about to go off to heaven." God, at 80 years of age, awakens him spiritually; because people who are already advanced in years do everything more calmly, everything more slowly, and by then they lead a more sedentary life.

So what did God do when Moses was still tending the sheep of his father-in-law Jethro? God made a plant suddenly begin to burn: a bush. In those desert places, the bushes have a dry sort of look, right? And it is not impossible for that to happen. Sometimes it happens that, because of the intense heat, and because there is a great drought there—it is a desert, naturally—some plant can catch fire. But the strange thing is that this plant caught fire, and the fire was burning the whole time, and the flame did not consume it; so much so that it caught the attention of Moses, the man of 80 years of age, and he got up from where he was to see what was happening: that this bush was not burning up, was not being consumed.

"PUT OFF THY SHOES FROM OFF THY FEET"

And when he draws near, he hears a voice. He sees nothing, but he hears a voice that says to him: "Moses, put off your shoes from your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy." And then he realized that it was God who was speaking to him.

There is a song we have in our hymnbook that goes like this:

(The pastor sings the chorus "Allá en el monte Horeb la zarza ardía" ["There on Mount Horeb the bush was burning"].)

I remember that I used to sing it when I was a boy, and it instilled in us that God is bound up with holiness: God is holy, and in the presence of the Lord we must be filled with awe at the solemnity of who the Lord is, right?

FROM EGYPT TO THE CHURCH

And well, with the power of God, Moses brings out the Hebrew people—his own brothers by blood, by race—who were enslaved in Egypt. And this speaks to us, symbolically, of how we were not under the claws of Pharaoh, but under the claws of Satan, bound in sin, in vices, in perdition. And the Lord Jesus set us free from Egypt, from Pharaoh; He called us out of this world to a place apart, to be with us.

And that is the meaning of the word church, isn't it? Church: to come out in order to gather together in one place. It has a spiritual sense, and a physical sense too, because we are gathered here as a church.

CHAPTER THREE

FROM SINAI TO KADESH BARNEA

"I am 85 years old, and I am as strong as when I was 40."

THE REAL MOUNT SINAI

AND WELL, THEY went out, and it took them less than two months to reach Mount Sinai; which is not the Mount Sinai we all know, which is in Egypt. Because the apostle Paul says in Galatians that Mount Sinai—where the Lord appeared and gave the laws to the Hebrews—is in Arabia. And all the people in those places know perfectly well that that Mount Sinai is not where God was. People go every year, they climb the steps to see the place where God was with Moses; but it is not. Across the Red Sea is where that mountain is, the mountain of Moses.

And it is all dark, as if it had been burned, right? By the fire of the presence of God. Years ago it was strictly forbidden to go near that place; but some believers worked up the courage and slipped in underneath. Well, they were risking a lot, because they could be put in prison. Israel did not do that; Arabia did that, Saudi Arabia, because they know that is the place.

THE ROCK OF THE CALF

And to this day you can see an enormous rock where the Hebrews, tired of waiting for Moses, who was up there on Mount Sinai, say: "Who knows what has happened to this Moses?" And they grew tired, and said: "Well, let's make an idol, let's make a

golden calf, and let's say to the people: 'People, these are the gods that have delivered you.'" And they began to throw a party, a revelry. And well, Moses had to come down from the mountain in a hurry, because God warned him about what was happening.

And you can still see that enormous rock, and you can see drawings like pictographs, right?, of a calf, and quite a few very interesting drawings. I have them at home, those drawings, right?

TWELVE SPIES

So they were there, at Mount Sinai, receiving the law of God for a little over a year; and then it took them some more months, after God gave them the law, to reach Kadesh Barnea, which is the last station before crossing the Jordan River and entering the promised land. So, rounding off the figures, it did not take them two years to get from Egypt to the border of Canaan, the promised land.

What happened? That they rebelled against God there, because they had sent twelve spies, among them Joshua and Caleb. I believe Joshua would have been two years older than Caleb. But about Caleb we know well that, when they came out of Egypt, when they began the journey, Caleb was 38 years old. So, when they reached Kadesh Barnea, Caleb was 40 years old, and he was one, together with Joshua, of the twelve who went to inspect the land.

They crossed the Jordan, they took a look: there were some cities with very high walls. And when they went in there, into the city—because people paid no attention to these two, who knows, these two outsiders—there were giants so big that it says: "We seemed to them as if we were grasshoppers." Imagine how tall they were!

Well, they came back bringing the reports that Moses had told them to go and find out, in order to make strategies to conquer the city. Ten of them said: "No, we're not crazy enough to go there. They'll kill us. There are giants, there are walled cities."

And Joshua and Caleb were saying: "No, let's go, because God is the one sending us; God is going to be with us."

FORTY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS

Well, God was so angry that He said: "All this generation of grown people—not everyone who was there, but the whole generation of the grown people—is going to die. Only Joshua and Caleb will remain." And God said: "Well, now you are going to have to wander in the wilderness."

We always say that they had to wander in the wilderness 40 years, right? The Bible says that they wandered in the wilderness 38 more years, after the two years they had spent going through the wilderness. That is why it is 40 years.

So Caleb, who was 40 years old, goes along with the people those 38 years, and all the older people died. And when they came back again to the borders of the Jordan, to the borders of Canaan, on this side of the Jordan, Caleb, who had been 40 years old, 38 years later—how old was he? Seventy-eight.

And afterward they crossed over, and seven years of conquests and wars and all that. Caleb was by then 78 plus 7; how much is that? Eighty-five. That is why Caleb says: "I am 85 years old, and I am as strong as when I was 40. So I claim that reward that God promised me, some land there in Canaan, as a prize for having been faithful to God and having believed God that we would be able to defeat the enemy."

MOSES ON MOUNT NEBO

And well, Joshua was about two years older. And by that time, imagine: Moses was 80 years old when God called him to deliver the people from Egypt. Forty years later —that is, two years plus 38 years—how old was Moses? A hundred and twenty years. His eyes never grew dim.

In those 38 years, I believe, he had time to write Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Some say he also wrote the book of Job.

Well, so God makes Moses go up Mount Nebo, and says to him: “I want you to see the whole promised land.” God showed him everything: what a beautiful place! And well, Moses died, as God had told him; not on Mount Nebo, but below, in the valley of Moab. And no one knows the place of his burial to this day.

CHAPTER FOUR

HE WHO DOES NOT SERVE IS NO USE

He who does not serve the Lord is no use.

A SECOND STAGE

THAT IS WHY we come to this point: Joshua, chapter 1. Now you are going to understand it better, as I understood it a little better: "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass…" Well, here it is as if a second stage begins.

The deliverer, who was Moses, is a figure of Jesus Christ, who is our deliverer. Well, in Moses' case, he died; he did not rise again like our deliverer. Jesus rose again on the third day. He died; so a new stage begins.

A FAMOUS MAN

And notice how Moses is described. Imagine: after 40 years of having brought those plagues, those ten plagues, so that what he said came to pass—what he said came to pass. Tremendous, the things he did! He was a famous man. If there had been daily newspapers—wow!—they would have talked about this famous man. This Moses was famous, wasn't he? And if there had been television, too, right?

But here it says: "Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD…" Notice: because Moses was not the owner of all those people who were there. He was the servant of the LORD.

SERVANTS OF THE LORD

And in the same way, we have to understand that we are servants of the Lord. If we are servants of the Lord, what do we have to do? Serve the LORD. If we do not serve Him, then we are not servants. "Ah, but I have the title of servant there." But what good is it? What good is the title, if I am not serving Him?

There was a brother—who is still alive—don Pedro Sanfilippo. It was from him that I first heard this saying. He spoke loudly; he would say: "He who does not serve is no use." He who does not serve the Lord is no use. [In Spanish, *"El que no sirve, no sirve"*: the same verb means both "to serve" and "to be of use."] So he is disqualified. He who does not serve is no use.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE DOG AND THE WOLF

"I would rather be like this, but free."

MOSES' MINISTER

"NOW AFTER THE death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister." Aha. Notice: Joshua was Moses' minister, his servant. Joshua was always with Moses, learning from him. And he was a man—a young man, the Bible says—a faithful young man, a faithful person.

He was always with Moses, he always supported Moses, he never turned against Moses, even though the whole people turned against Moses. Once they said: "Let us appoint leaders, captains, and go back to Egypt." Fools! How could they go back to Egypt, where they had been slaves?

THE LEEKS AND ONIONS OF EGYPT

There was a time when they were saying: "Oh, we're always eating this manna, this manna, this stuff that falls, that we can cook, that we can eat raw, however we like. Oh, we long for, we remember back there. Oh, the garlic, the leeks, the onions we used to eat back in Egypt!" Yes, but they were slaves.

"I'LL KEEP MY FREEDOM"

Once a dog met a wolf. And the dog was nice and plump, handsome, with a beautiful coat. Have you noticed? When dogs are in good health, they carry their tails up; when you see a dog with its tail down like this, it is sick. He had it up, and his coat healthy, shiny. And he met a wolf—wolves are the originals, the origin of dogs, right? And the wolf was skinny, his tail down; his coat was not very good.

And the dog, since he was the wolf's friend, said to him: "How nice it would be if you came to live with me! Just be submissive before my master, and you'll see how nice it is. Look: I have all the food, I have everything. How great!" And almost, almost, almost the wolf was convinced to go and live with the dog, under the master's orders.

Almost before saying yes, he looked, he observed carefully. He says: "What is that you have, a mark here on your neck, like there's no fur?" "Ah," he says, "my master puts a collar on me with a chain." "Ah, no," he says. "You stay with your master, but I'll keep my freedom. I would rather be like this, but free."

How interesting, isn't it? Whereas the Hebrews were saying: "No, no, let's go back there, to our master, Pharaoh." How sad, isn't it? When a believer turns away from the Lord, it is as if he wants to go back again to the world, to Egypt, symbolically speaking.

CHAPTER SIX

GOD'S PLAN GOES ON

The leader dies, but God's plan goes on.

"MOSES MY SERVANT IS DEAD"

BUT JOSHUA, BESIDES being the servant of the LORD, was also Moses' minister. And God says to him: "Moses my servant is dead." It is a reality that we cannot set aside, right?

But God did not call just anybody: He called Joshua. Joshua did not appear out of nowhere, claiming the leadership of the people now that Moses had died. No, not at all. First, because God called him; but, second, because he had been with Moses, going through the trials, through the difficulties, supporting him in everything.

And so God says to him: "Moses my servant is dead." It is one thing for the leader to die; but that has nothing to do with God's plan. The leader dies, but God's plan goes on.

FORTY YEARS AS A CONGREGATION

That is why one sees, over 40 years—as it happens, we too have been a congregation for 40 years—how many brothers and sisters have passed away? How many? But the work goes on, because the work is God's. And one day it will be my turn—if the Lord does not come first, right?—to die. And well, there will have to be another person who is responsible, who comes every Sunday, every Friday, who comes on

time, who is always prepared to bring the Word, who loves being in the congregation, for whom it is a joy.

And well, God is going to provide for you, because God is not going to abandon His people. And you yourselves ought to be praying—and I too—for the person who will come after I am gone; because we are only instruments, nothing more.

WHEN A SPOON BREAKS

When a spoon breaks, what do you do? Never eat soup again in your life? What do you do? You grab another spoon. It is not that one sets the spoon aside: "This one was good for nothing; just as well it broke." No: it served me all the time it was whole. Well, now it broke. Bye. I'm going to buy another spoon.

"Moses my servant is dead." But do not just stand there: "Oh, he died! He died! And now what do we do? And now, who carries on?" No: "Now therefore arise," God says to Joshua, "go over this Jordan."

GOD CALLS, PREPARES AND TESTS

Sisters and brothers, for years—40 years—God was preparing Joshua to be able to succeed Moses. Joshua did not mind if God gave him a tiny little task: sweeping with the broom, fixing this piece of furniture that broke—in those 40 years something might well have broken, right? He did not mind; for whatever it was, he was willing.

At the same time, that was a test. A test. God tests. God calls, and God prepares, and God puts to the test: "Let's see, are you going to be faithful in this?"

"Look, sister, you can take charge of watering the little plants we have here in the church." "Yes, yes, yes. Of course! Of course!" The following Sunday she goes and waters them. Then, the next Sunday, she forgot; and the Sunday after that, I don't know whether she forgot or not, but she didn't come; and the next one, I don't know: she went off on a picnic.

Brethren, God cannot use us like that. We have to have a sense of responsibility. And we do not serve man: "I don't like this pastor; that's why I don't want to do anything here." No: whom are you serving? The pastor or the Lord? You are serving the Lord. And God tests how willing you are to serve the Lord, how much you love Him. God tests you in that.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THOSE WHO STAYED ON THIS SIDE

We are here to wage war, to fight the battle of the Lord every day.

NOT EVERYONE CROSSED THE JORDAN

"**MOSES MY SERVANT** is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." Did you know that not all the Hebrew people crossed the Jordan River? Did you know that? There is a group of two and a half tribes: those of Reuben, those of Gad, and those of Manasseh. Manasseh was half the tribe of Manasseh, because the other half-tribe did cross.

CANAAN IS NOT HEAVEN

Let me tell you something. We are very used to saying: "Brethren, we have come out of Egypt, out of the world, and we are on a journey, passing through the wilderness of this world, toward Canaan, the heavenly one." Just a moment. No, no; because when they went to Canaan, they did not go to rest, the way we are going to be resting in heaven: eternal rest. Yes, serving the Lord, but not with stress or anything of the kind. We are going to be praising, singing to the Lord, rejoicing, getting to know each one of the prophets.

But there, in Canaan, they had to fight to conquer those lands. And God told them that everything the sole of their feet trod upon would be theirs.

WITH CHRIST, FORWARD

I invite you, brethren, to stand to our feet right now. I invite all of us to stand, every one, and that way we wake up too. And do with me what I am going to do; you already know it.

(The pastor leads the congregation, standing, in repeating the chorus "Con Cristo voy arriba" ["With Christ I go upward"].)

That should be the attitude we ought to have. Be seated, sisters and brothers.

I have great problems sleeping at night, and I try to sleep in the afternoon too, to make up for it; and who knows whether some of you have that problem. But, if you do not have trouble sleeping, what I advise you, sisters and brothers, is to go to bed nice and early on Saturday, for love of the Lord; go to bed early and get up early on Sunday, so as to be on time for the service, and so honor the Lord. Doesn't that seem like a good idea?

CHRISTIANS ON THIS SIDE OF THE JORDAN

"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel." Do you know, as I just told you, that not everyone wanted to cross the Jordan to go to the promised land? They said: "No, we're staying here. There are many of us, we have a lot of cattle; we're staying on this side of the Jordan."

And in the same way there are Christians who are not spiritual, who do not want to consecrate themselves to the Lord, who do not want to enter the battle that as Christians we have to take on. Because we are here, brethren—we are not here to sunbathe, or to sit in the shade of a tree drinking mate—we are here to wage war, to

fight the battle of the Lord every day. Every day to be a living testimony, seeking to witness, to speak of the Lord, to hand out tracts.

AT LEAST A TRACT

I don't see them, the tracts. I think they were handing them out. What's left there? A few. Well, the idea is that, if we do not dare to speak to a person about the Lord directly, at least we give them a tract. They might ask you: "And what is this?" And there you have an excuse to be able to talk to them.

We have to do that, because, when the Lord comes and asks you about your talent, what will you say to the Lord about the talent that Christ gave you? So multiply it, brother, your talent: that talent which Christ gave you. I am saying what the song says, and the Bible says it too, in the book of Revelation; afterward you can look it up yourselves.

THAT NO MAN TAKE THY CROWN

(The pastor sings the chorus "Allá en el cielo hay un hogar" ["There in heaven there is a home"].)

"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." What a shame it will be if you lose your crown, sister, brother, and someone else takes it! You were finding excuses and problems in everything; you were looking for the cat's fifth leg [an Argentine saying: looking for problems where there are none]. Meanwhile someone else said: "Well, who knows, we are all imperfect here; but this needs doing. I am going to do it, and I am going to be responsible."

Well, they stayed; but Joshua—we will see this later—told them to help their brothers carry out the task. There are Christians who are not spiritual; but on some special occasion—a conference, something special—well, then they help. But, after

the conference is over, they go back again to the same thing: to living the comfortable life.

CHAPTER EIGHT

EVERY PLACE THAT THE SOLE OF YOUR FOOT SHALL TREAD UPON

What makes you special is that I am with you.

EVERYTHING YOU WALK

"EVERY PLACE THAT the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses." Imagine that someone tells you: "I am going to give you everything you want; I am going to give you a very large stretch of land. All you have to do is walk. Everything you walk, all of that is going to be yours." Come on! How many kilometers would we walk? How far would we dare to walk to have a really big field? Think, imagine it were true. Would we dare to walk ten kilometers? You have to walk ten this way, then you have to walk ten that way, then ten this way. Of course.

LITTLE LETTUCES AND TOMATOES

Do you know what the Hebrews said? They went to fight those seven years, and they had victory wherever they went. Wherever they set the sole of their feet, everyone surrendered, and they took those lands. Afterward they said: "That's it. I already have enough land here for my little lettuces, for my tomatoes."

Ah, God told them: "Take everything I told you to take." Do you know why? "Because those things you leave unconquered will be a headache for you later." The

Philistines: that is the Gaza Strip. To this day it is a headache that should not exist. They should have taken all the land, as God had told them, and there would not be so many fights and arguments. But well, sisters and brothers: God has called us to conquer.

"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses." But He gives them some limits; but they are enormous, right? "From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea"—which is the Mediterranean—"toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast." They never conquered it completely. Never. One of those places was conquered by Caleb, who was 85 years old. He says: "I feel strong." And he went to fight, at the age of 85, and he had victory.

"SO I WILL BE WITH THEE"

Verse 5 says: "There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee." "It is not that Moses was a special person; it is that you see him as special because I was with him. But now I am going to be with you. What makes you special is that I am with you."

There is a song that goes like this:

(The pastor sings the chorus "Esto sé, que mi Dios está conmigo" ["This I know: my God is with me"].)

These are songs that we have in our hymnbook. But, of course, when one sees these accounts, only then does one understand the value of these songs, right?

"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

STUBBORN AND VALIANT

But He tells him three times; in verse 6: "Be strong and of a good courage." Which, if we go properly to the originals, the idea is: to be stubborn and valiant. "Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them."

Listen, brethren: Joshua did not go alone to conquer the promised land. Joshua went with Caleb and with all the people; that is, the descendants, all those grown people who were by then young and strong. Because the work cannot be done by one person alone. The church is a body, and we need everyone's cooperation.

"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, to make mincemeat of the enemies." It says so… —If some country is listening: *hacer pomada* [literally "to make ointment"] means to defeat the enemy.— It does not say that. "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper"—that you may succeed—"whithersoever thou goest."

CHAPTER NINE

LIKE A SENTINEL

We have to do it too, not only know it.

THE COMPANY TREASURER

I WORKED FOR many years in an office, and I had a certain position, let us say, and people respected me; but I was not the owner of the company. I could do things according to what I had been told I could do.

At one time, for example, I was treasurer of the company, a very large company, and I had a great deal of money, and I also received a great deal of money, which then had to be taken and deposited in the bank, right? I had to be a trustworthy person. The personnel manager said to me: "Nehoda, we don't trust you 100%. We trust you more than 100%."

Well, so I was in charge of the money. Many people came to me asking for money, because it was needed for paperwork and the things that had to be done, or payments to suppliers, some of which had to be made in cash. But I looked carefully. They would bring me a voucher: "Pay 1,300,000 pesos to Antonio Rodríguez." Let's see, let's see. "Great. Here is the invoice. But is this invoice authorized? Who authorized it?" I knew everyone's signatures; I knew them. Generally it was a certain Raúl Figueira who authorized them. So I checked things carefully.

That is, it was not that I did whatever I darn well pleased. No. I had a range of action, but I had to stay within it. If someone came and asked me for money: "Ah, yes, here you are, here you are"—I could have done it, yes. Afterward they would

have fired me, because: “How can you give out money without having the voucher that authorizes it?”

TURNING NEITHER TO THE RIGHT HAND NOR TO THE LEFT

That is why it says: “Only be thou strong and very courageous”—like a sentinel; that is the idea—“that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper”—or have success—“whithersoever thou goest.” For that, naturally, they had to know the laws. If he does not know it, how is he going to manage not to turn away from it? You have to know it.

THE WORD IN OUR MOUTH

That is why verse 8 says here—look how interesting what it says is: “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth.” That is: the Word of God also has to be in our mouth.

Whoever came to my parents’ house, my mother would hit them hard with some text from the Bible. She generally used the book of Proverbs. She knew it by heart, brethren. That is what we have to do. We have to have salt. All conversation has to be seasoned with salt: not with gossip, not with criticism, not with discouraging words, but with the Word of God.

DAY AND NIGHT

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but…” “You read a little text in the morning; that’s it, done.” No: “but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,” in this book of the law, “that thou mayest observe”; that you may value it, treasure it, give importance to what it says; “that thou mayest observe to do”; that is, and take care to act on it. We have to do it too, not only know it.

"...that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous." In life—we say it—in the Christian life. Not prospering in the sense that you are going to be rich. It may be, in some case, that God gives you a factory, so that you can have Christian employees and give work to others. But generally it is not like that; rather, one prospers in spiritual things, prospers in the work of God, right? "For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

CHAPTER TEN

BE NOT AFRAID, NEITHER BE THOU DISMAYED

We have to depend on the Lord.

THE THIRD TIME

"**HAVE NOT I** commanded thee?" The idea is: "I entrust it to you," or "I charge you." "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong"—the third time He tells him, right?—"and of a good courage."

Because it is not that you are going to begin doing the work of God and everyone is going to applaud you: "How good! Look how lovely what you're doing is."

"I WOULD LIKE TO SING A SOLO"

For example, you feel in your heart—and you have a good voice, naturally—that you want to sing; to sing solos. To say: "Marcos, I would like to sing a solo next Sunday." "Of course! But of course! How lovely that would be!" "Oh, I would like to sing a duet, a trio, with the guitar and with another brother, or with a sister." "Of course. Certainly."

"No, they don't let you do anything here. They don't let you do anything." We want you to do things, but you don't want to do them. "Ah, no, because I want to do what I want to do." Ah, we have to depend on the Lord.

And sometimes the Lord does not say no to you; He says: "Wait." And sometimes you go to the pastor, and the pastor says to you: "Look, wait," because he knows your condition, he knows. But the vast majority of the time we are going to say yes, because we need it.

"How lovely, brother. I would like to give a testimony: how I came to know the Lord." "How lovely! Oh, yes: come and give your testimony, brother." "I want to come up here and jump, break a chair." No, brother, that doesn't go. Do you see? We have to seek spiritual things.

NEITHER LOSE HEART

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed"—meaning: and do not lose heart—"for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

I was beginning to tell you—then I cut it off; I went off on a tangent—that a person feels in his heart to sing a solo for the Lord, and he can sing in tune—because we are not going to put someone up if they can't sing in tune—and one thinks that everyone is going to say: "How lovely! What a blessing it was for our lives!", right? But: "Hey, look what a horrible song you chose. Didn't you have a better one? How long the song was, please!" Or else: "How short! Look: you got up and you already sat down, please."

(The pastor tries to recall a song from the hymnbook.)

Ah, a song that we have in the hymnbook, and nobody wants to sing it. We have to sing: "Hallelujah! All lovely. Onward, brethren, in the faith." That is: there are no trials, there are no temptations, everything is great. A church like that, right?, should already be in heaven.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

ALL THAT THOU COMMANDEST US WE WILL DO

God challenges us to be faithful, to be strong, to be courageous, to be obedient.

PREPARE YOU VICTUALS

"THEN JOSHUA COMMANDED the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the LORD your God giveth you to possess it."

THE MIGHTY MEN, BEFORE THEIR BRETHREN

"And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying, Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land. Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them; until the LORD have given your brethren rest, as he hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the LORD your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession,

and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD's servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising."

That is: you have to leave your wife and your children and your cattle—for God is going to take care of them—and you have to cross the Jordan with all the others, to conquer the land.

"SO WILL WE HEARKEN UNTO THEE"

"And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do." They are not saying: "We will do all the things that God commanded us." Because they understood what God had shown Joshua; they believed that God had spoken to Joshua. So God has His ways of doing it. Is He going to be at it all the time, one by one? So, well, He gave it to Joshua to pass on to the people.

"And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go."

THE AUTHORITY OF THE TEACHER

You know that this is not happening nowadays in the schools. In the old days, a teacher's authority was something tremendous. And the teacher would call the child's parents, and the child would be standing there, trembling. And the teacher would say: "Your son not only does not study: he does not pay attention, and he hits his little classmates." And the parents, when they took him home, would give him one.

Now it is the other way round. The teacher is the one trembling, because the parents come—one has a gun, a knife—and the mother comes, and the little boy, all brave, with a look of triumph: "Why did you give a two to my darling little son, my precious darling son?" Trembling.

REBELLION HAS REACHED THE CHURCHES

And this rebellion has spread to society. They break everything, they destroy everything, brethren, and they want the country to be great by destroying everything. Uncultured people, without education. It is something terrible: smashing shop windows, smashing the businesses of people who had to save money with such hard work to be able to have a business.

No: the one who has a business, they envy him right away: "This guy has money; who knows what he must have stolen. He has a nice car." Which he was able to pay for in installments, or is paying for in installments. And I walk by with a nail and scratch it like this. Why? "He gets to have a nice car, and I don't even have a car." Rebellion.

And this has been transformed, it has been carried over into the churches too. Into the churches too. How is the people of God going to march like that?

ONLY BE STRONG

"According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses." The great responsibility of leading the people of the Lord! One has to be an example.

Here they went overboard! How obedient! They already went overboard: "Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage."

This was said to Joshua by the people, not by God. God told him three times, and the people told him once: "Only be strong and of a good courage."

THIS MORNING'S CHALLENGE

Brethren, God challenges us this morning to be faithful, to be strong, to be courageous, to be obedient to this Word of the Lord, "to observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." What a challenge!

And God is going to bless you; not right away tomorrow, tomorrow, that very morning… Oh, no! It is a process. God is going to give to you little by little, little by little, as you have the capacity to take on more responsibilities. Well, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You very much for Joshua chapter 1. It does us good to read all these instructions that You gave to Joshua. Thank You, Lord, because the work went on, even though Moses had died. Thank You because You raised up a servant like Joshua, whom You prepared for so many years—40 years—to obey You and to lead the people.

My Lord, what a privilege to have been among that people, and to have crossed the Jordan River, and in the name of the Lord to have conquered the land! How beautiful! Thank You, Lord. You gave them everything. It was even already sown; there was everything: there were vineyards, fruit trees, a whole lot of things. And in the same way You offer us so many things in the lands of victory, so that one day, after having been obedient and faithful to You, we may enjoy in heaven all that eternal rest, as Your Word says: "Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours." Thank You. And the other promise: "And their works do follow them"; because the work goes on in this land.

Thank You, thank You very much, Father, in the precious name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Passages read, quoted or alluded to in the message, in the order in which they appear. In this edition the Bible text is given in the King James Version.

Joshua 1:1–18 — God calls Joshua; the base text of the whole message (Chapter 1–11)

Exodus 3:1–5* — The bush that burned and was not consumed; "put off thy shoes" (Chapter 2)

Galatians 4:25* — Mount Sinai is in Arabia (Chapter 3)

Exodus 32:1–6* — The golden calf (Chapter 3)

Numbers 13:33* — "We were in our own sight as grasshoppers" (Chapter 3)

Numbers 14:26–35* — Forty years in the wilderness; only Joshua and Caleb would enter (Chapter 3)

Joshua 14:7–11* — Caleb at 85, as strong as at 40 (Chapter 3, 8)

Deuteronomy 34:1–7* — Moses sees the land from Mount Nebo and dies (Chapter 3)

Exodus 33:11* — Joshua, the young minister of Moses (Chapter 5)

Numbers 14:4* — "Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt" (Chapter 5)

Numbers 11:5–6* — The leeks, onions and garlic of Egypt (Chapter 5)

Numbers 32:1–33* — Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh (Chapter 7)

Matthew 25:14–30* — The parable of the talents (Chapter 7)

Revelation 3:11* — "Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Chapter 7)

Judges 1:19–34* — Lands the tribes did not conquer (Chapter 8)

Colossians 4:6* — "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt" (Chapter 9)

Revelation 14:13* — "They may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Chapter 11)

** The preacher did not cite chapter and verse; the reference was identified by the editors.*

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Marcos Andrés Nehoda is the pastor of the Evangelical Christian Church—whose motto is "God First" (*Dios Primero*)—located at 346 Suipacha Street, Sarandí, Province of Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area, AMBA), Argentine Republic. He began pastoring at the age of 30 and is now 70; that is to say, he has been pastoring the same congregation for 40 years.

By the grace and mercy of the Lord, the church has sent two missionaries to preach and evangelize in Islamic countries, and has helped to start new works and testimonies, both in the district of Avellaneda (helping a Pentecostal church) and in the city of La Plata (helping a Baptist church). For many years it has at the same time known joyful seasons in impoverished neighborhoods in several localities, where some children have grown up, been baptized in their youth, and even entered into marriage in the Lord.

The church gathers children on Saturdays—the children of congregation members and of neighbors from the surrounding area—nurturing their lives; teenagers and young adults are cared for by responsible individuals. There are meetings for women, for men, for teenagers and young adults, and for children. On Sunday mornings the congregation gathers to worship and praise the Lord, to listen to the exposition of His Holy Word, and, for those who have already been baptized, to take part in the Lord's Supper.

The church has provided clothing and shoes to charities in remote areas such as the provinces of Chaco and Entre Ríos; it recognizes need and helps regardless of denomination, provided sound biblical doctrine is taught. It has distributed pamphlets of God's Word door to door on several occasions; its meeting place served as the operations center for L.A.P.E.N. (Argentine League for the Evangelization of Children), and it has conducted children's courses with materials provided by brethren residing in the United States, including full-color New Testaments adapted for children.

For years he took the opportunity to broadcast radio programs on FM, and he currently uses social media to spread the Word of God.

Follow on:

- The Church's YouTube Channel
- Facebook: I.D.P. – "God First" Church
- Pastor Marcos Nehoda's Facebook Page
- Private Facebook Group "Persecuted Christians"

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