

Thought for the Day 22nd September - Joan Loane

Every day (or almost every day!), I try to read a bit of the Old Testament and a bit of the New. At the moment, I am just starting Joshua and, in the New Testament, I'm up to the part where Jesus is preparing the disciples for His leaving them.

What surprised me was, they both said the same thing!

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

'Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' John 14:27b

'Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." ' John 14:23

Poor Joshua had been suddenly left with the job of leading God's people into the Promised Land. Moses had been the leader for the past 40 years and had walked closely with God. Now Joshua was expected to fill his shoes. He had been Moses' apprentice and had observed firsthand what a rebellious and complaining lot, these people were. How was he going to manage them and overthrow the inhabitants of the land all at the same time?

Well, the Lord knew how he felt and encouraged him to go forward bravely, knowing he was not alone. The Lord God had promised to be with him wherever he went. But he had to step out of his comfort zone and trust God.

The disciples were in a similar situation. They had been with Jesus for three years and seen His amazing love and power. They also had seen the opposition and how strong it was. How could simple men of lowly occupations and little education, go forward to tell of their Lord? How could they even expect to stay true to Him when things got difficult?

Well, again, the Lord knew how they felt and encouraged them. He would be with them and the Father would send the Holy Spirit to teach them all things and remind them of everything Jesus had said to them. (John 14:25)

And where do we fit into this story? We are in a pandemic and may feel thwarted. But are we really? Is this not a great time of opportunity with people at home and available? Do we need to get out of our comfort zone and reach out to people who now have time to think and talk? Perhaps a phone call or a visit?

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