**LET’S ASSESS IT!**

**OUR STRATEGY**

Lesson 21 – A PLAN for Ministry

Premise: Ministry is a movement. To fulfill God’s plan and purpose for our lives and for the life of our church, we cannot become complacent or stagnant. We must get *On the Move*! To accomplish this, we must honestly examine who we are, where we are, and what we are as a ministry, and with boldness, begin making the necessary changes to fulfill God call (Ephesians 2:10).

**DISCUSSION**

**Assess, Evaluate, Examine**

Strategy - a plan, method, or series of maneuvers or stratagems for obtaining a specific goal or result.

\*What are some synonyms for “strategy”?

Approach, Blueprint, Game Plan, Plan, Method, Procedure, Scheme

\*Is it important to have a “strategy” for ministry? Explain your answer.

\*Can/should strategies change over time? Why or why not?

What does the Bible say about making plans?

* Proverbs 21:5
* Proverbs 24:27

Most often we think about “planning” as being an action plan. Before we can act, we must first develop the appropriate attitude.

This is demonstrated in the life of Israel prior to their arrival in the Promised Land.

**DISCOVERY**

**Joshua 1**

**Developing the Right Attitude**

**(v. 1-2)** Moses is dead.

The death of Moses does not prevent the forward progress of the journey to the Promised Land. Moses died, not the mission.

“…prepare to cross over the Jordan… (v. 2)”

“There comes a time in every ministry when God calls for a new beginning with a new generation and new leadership.” Warren Wiersbe

When Moses dies, he cannot simply be embalmed and propped up as a symbol of what once was.

When Moses dies, he should be celebrated, but respectfully, he should be buried!

Burying Moses doesn’t mean that we are completely abandoning the past.

We must, though, be certain that we are **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on the past as we move toward the future.

To move forward from the past, building toward the future, will require *strength* and *courage*.

(v. 6-9)

The Hebrew word used for “courageous” means steadfastly minded; “strong” means obstinate.

God tells Israel to be *strong in mind* before you go into the Promised Land.

What does this mean for us? We must condition our minds to embrace the future which lies before us. We must be “strong and courageous” as we prepare to move into that future.

What enabled Israel to be strong and courageous? What enables “US” to be strong and courageous?

(v. 8) We must **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on the Word of God, believing its promises and obeying its commands.

Read Joshua 1:8. Underline each place that gives an instruction to be followed.

“This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.”

* Articulate – speak it
* Meditate – study it
* Effectuate – start it

Attitude precedes action.

Our minds must first embrace what our hands and feet are preparing to undertake.

**DIRECTION**

Assess – Evaluate - Examine