“Moving Forward” Part 1
Mount of Olives | June 28, 2026 | Joshua 1:1-9
Pastor Jim Reynen

Prayer of the Day
Heavenly Father, over and over we have experienced the futility of seeking fulfillment by pursuing our own self-interest in our lives. The truth is, we often don’t know what is best for us. Throughout the ages, people have found that our best laid plans often go awry. Help us once again to remember that we don’t make the best lords of our lives. Help us to understand that we can rely on Your sovereignty and trust in You in all circumstances. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading
Joshua 1:1-9
After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Message Notes

Joshua 1:1-2
After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites.

Joshua 1:9
Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Jeremiah 29:11
For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Isaiah 55:8-9
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Joshua 3:8
You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, "When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan."

Joshua 3:13
When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.

Study Questions – Read Joshua 1:1-9
ICEBREAKER – Getting started:
1. What is the biggest challenge you have ever faced when stepping into something new?
2. Who is someone that has encouraged you during a difficult season of life?
3. If you could instantly become fearless at one thing, what would it be?
4. What is one promise from God or encouragement from Scripture that has helped you through hard times?
Based on Joshua 1:1-9**, answer the following questions:**
OBSERVATION – What does the text say?
1. As you read Joshua 1:1-9, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?
INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?
1. According to verse 1, what major event had just taken place before God spoke to Joshua?
2. What role had Joshua previously held under Moses?
3. In verses 2–4, what specific promise did God give to Joshua and the people of Israel?
4. Why do you think God repeatedly tells Joshua to “be strong and courageous”?
5. What does verse 5 reveal about God’s presence with Joshua?
6. How would God’s promise to Joshua compare to His promises to Moses?
7. In verse 6, what mission was Joshua being called to complete?
8. What instructions does God give Joshua concerning the Law in verses 7–8?
9. What does it mean to “meditate on” God’s Word day and night?

10. According to verse 8, what connection is made between obedience to God's Word and success?
11. In verse 9, what reason does God give Joshua for not being afraid?
12. What do these verses teach us about leadership, faith, and dependence on God?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What is one area of your life right now where you need to be strong and courageous?
2. How can you spend more intentional time meditating on God's Word throughout the week?
3. What fears or anxieties tend to keep you from fully trusting God?
4. How does knowing that God is always with you change the way you face challenges?
5. What is one step of obedience God may be asking you to take today?