WHEREVER YOU GO

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Joshua 1:5

Three times in chapter one of the book of Joshua, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous. Joshua has a big challenge ahead of him: crossing the Jordan River to take over the land God had long ago promised the Israelites. He very much needed God’s reassurance.

But isn’t that exactly what God is also saying to us as we face our challenges? He tells us, too, to be “strong and courageous.” We may not be crossing the Jordan and doing battle with other nations, but we, too, face frequent battles as we deal with our troubles.

Even small challenges seem insurmountable at times. In fact, when we’re dealing with depression, washing a sink-full of dirty dishes is almost like crossing a river to us. We need encouragement in the way Joshua did. In scriptures like the one above we will find that encouragement.

I’m currently engaged in a big project. Without realizing it, I was getting anxious in a way I’ve never experienced before. I found out how anxiety is not just a thing that happens in the mind. I was physically affected, with tremors, tearfulness, and an inability to function. I almost felt like I could not continue.

Why did I not remember that God is with me? It could be because I wasn’t reading my Bible regularly, keeping its messages close to mind. If I did, I might not become so overwhelmed.

How powerful the above verses are when we need them! When I found them, I remembered . . . God is with me. He’ll *always* be with me.

God assured Joshua that He would not forsake him. And neither will He forsake us.

marja