

SCCC – PROCRASTINATION

S – Scriptures

“So Joshua said to the Israelites: “How long will you wait before you begin to take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you?” Joshua 18: 3

C - Consideration

Israel had their assignment written for more than forty years before they entered Canaan. It was straight forward, “I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.” Before Moses’ death, in only two battles, two and a half tribes of Israel had gotten their land and settled down. It didn’t take a year, but, probably it was done in less than a month; however, “The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The country was brought under their control, but there were still seven Israelite tribes who had not yet received their inheritance.” In the second census, the male population was more than six hundred thousand; therefore, including the elderly, women, and children their numbers were millions. Joshua saw the time passing by, and he became very angry because of their procrastination to obey the Lord.

C – Commitment

I can imagine these multitudes living like sardines in a can, in a small area of the Promised Land, with their mind still programmed to live as slaves. They had seen the fall of Jericho in seven days, and another seven nations defeated by the small, but divinely empowered army of Israel. Joshua’s question implied that it was spiritual apathy that kept the Hebrews from finishing their mission. We have to remember that the warriors from Ruben, Gad, and Manasseh had left their families behind to help the other tribes to settle in their inheritance. I can imagine these men’s spouses and children’s longing and anxious souls waiting for their return. What does this passage have to do with me? God gave each one of His children something to conquer. It might be theological training, an academic degree, a missionary call, a volunteer service in a local nursing home, or a ministry in your local church. Many times, like the Israelis, we keep saying, “next year I will start.” This indifference would prevent us from experiencing God’s promises fulfilled. Paul wrote to the Church of Rome, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” He warned not to think as the world thinks, but as God’s word tells us.

C – Call

Lord, I don’t know how long I still have to live. I have lost much time and there are many things that I still haven’t done yet. Forgive me for my delay, help me in my lack of faith, help

me to conquer every piece of land you have assigned for me before my departure. In Jesus's name, I pray. Amen.