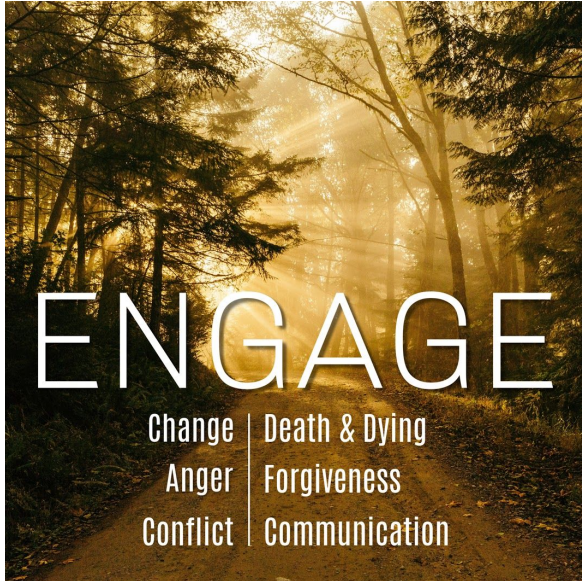


## ENGAGE: CHANGE

September 29, 2019

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### Joshua 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup>After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, <sup>2</sup>"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. <sup>3</sup>Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their

ancestors to give them. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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."

<sup>10</sup>Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, <sup>11</sup>"Pass through the camp, and command the people: 'Prepare your provisions; for in three days you are to cross over the Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God gives you to possess.'"

### CONTEXT

The Israelites have escaped bondage in Egypt, crossed the Reed Sea, received the teaching (Torah) of God at Mt. Sinai, and survived wandering in the wilderness. Moses has led them through all of this. Now, on the brink of the promised land everything changes: Moses dies and a new leader is called up. In this time of transition, God's words to Joshua reach across time and into every context of great change: "be strong and courageous." God promises to be present and issues a reminder of the counsel of the past.

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## A NEW SERENITY PRAYER

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the people I cannot change,  
which is pretty much everyone,  
since I'm clearly not you, God.  
At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God,  
please give me the courage  
to change what I need to change about myself,  
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,  
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.  
It's better for me to focus on changing myself  
than to worry about changing other people,  
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,  
I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up  
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter  
than everyone else in the room,  
that no one knows what they're talking about  
except me,  
or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God,  
grant me the wisdom  
to remember that I'm  
not you.  
*Amen.*

- Father James Martin, SJ

## QUOTES

"Things which do not grow or change are dead things." - Louise Erdrich

"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." - John Maxwell

"In a world of change, the learners shall inherit the earth, while the learned shall find themselves perfectly suited for a world that no longer exists."

- Eric Hoffer

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. The "promised land" may have been a long-awaited hope, but it was also an unfamiliar reality. What do you think *a) Joshua* and *b) the people* were anxious about or hoping for on the edge of the promised land?
3. Do you like change? Why or why not?
4. Looking back, what were some big moments of change in your life?
5. When facing a big change, what do you do? Who do you turn to? What brings you strength, clarity, or hope?
6. What do you think it means that "change is inevitable, growth is optional"?
7. How have you grown as a person of faith and in what ways are you intentionally growing now?
8. What "promised lands" of the future will require great change from the Church or from our society/world?

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