



# boundary

## TEACHING SUMMARY

Joshua stood on the eastern bank of the Jordan, the promised land stretching before him—spacious, bounded, already given. Yet the physical borders were not the only ones Joshua needed to watch. There was a higher boundary line, one that would keep him and the nation in bounds no matter how far they walked. The Lord spoke again.

“Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

Meditate. Do.

Two actions. Two verbs. Meditate means to keep the word in the mouth, to mutter it, to chew on it like a cow chewing cud—letting it roll around, digesting it deeply until it became part of the heart. Do means to act, to execute, to put boots on the ground, to submit under the authority of what was written.

Scripture repeatedly shows the connection between obedience and outcome. Adam and Eve heard the command: eat from every tree except one. They stepped out of bounds. The fall of man followed. Moses was told to speak to the rock. He struck it instead. He never entered the land. Lot’s wife was told to flee and not look back. She turned. She became a pillar of salt. God commanded King Saul to destroy the Amalekites completely. He spared the best of the sheep and Agag. His dynasty ended.

The opposite holds true. The widow of Zarephath heard Elijah’s word: gather vessels and pour. She obeyed. Oil flowed until every jar was full. Naaman the leper was told to wash seven times in the Jordan. Pride nearly kept him out of bounds. He dipped. His flesh returned like a child’s.

Meditate and do equals good success.

James wrote plainly: “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror.

For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount with the same truth. “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

The crowd had listened for hours. Beatitudes. Teachings. Commands. Jesus closed with this parable. Hearing alone deceives. Doing anchors. Storms come to both houses. Only the one built on obedience stands.

The word is the boundary line. Meditate—keep it in the mouth, chew on it day and night. Do—walk it out, submit to its authority. Step outside those lines, and success eludes you. Stay within them, and the way prospers.

Joshua received his commission. Arise. Go over. Meditate on the Book of the Law. Do all that is written in it. The physical borders marked the land. The word marked the path. God provided both. Both required participation. The soles of their feet would claim the soil. The obedience of their hearts would claim the promise.

