

Ribbon of Blue

Discussion Notes- September 21, 2025

1. Who is someone in your life that always encourages you to keep trusting God?

The story of Israel reminds us that following God always involves a fight. Ten spies saw defeat, but Joshua and Caleb believed God's promise and trusted Him for victory. When the people doubted, they were condemned to wander in the wilderness. To help them remember who they belonged to, God commanded them to wear a ribbon of blue as a daily reminder to obey Him and stay faithful. We, too, need reminders to remain "true blue" to God, standing firm against compromise and choosing trust over fear. Later, when rebellion rose against Moses, God judged the people, yet the priests stood between the dead and the living to intercede. In the same way, we are called to stand between the lost and the saved—holding onto our "ribbon of blue" and remembering why we're here: to trust God fully and to reach the lost at any cost.

Read Numbers 15:37-41

"The Lord said to Moses, 'Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Lord your God.'"

In the Bible, God commanded His people to wear a "ribbon of blue" on the fringes of their garments. The color blue symbolized heaven, holiness, and covenant loyalty, reminding Israel daily to obey God and live set apart. Blue also appeared in the tabernacle and priestly garments, pointing to God's presence and rule. Even today, blue often represents truth, faithfulness, and excellence. So when we think of a ribbon of blue, it's a call to stay true to God, remember who we belong to, and live faithfully in His covenant.

2. Why do you think God asked His people to use something so visible and physical (a ribbon of blue) as a reminder of their identity and obedience?

Read Numbers 14:6-9

"And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, 'The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.'"

Just like the Israelites needed that reminder, we also need ways to stay faithful when facing fear, temptation, or opposition. The story of Joshua and Caleb shows us that victory comes not

from our strength but from trusting God's promises. Our call is to live as God's people, stay "true blue" to Him, and stand in the gap for others.

3. What "giants" in your life are causing you to focus more on fear than faith?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

When rebellion broke out and God's judgment fell, Aaron ran with his censer and stood "between the dead and the living" (Numbers 16:48), and the plague was stopped. His intercession shows us the power of standing in the gap for others—pleading for God's mercy and pointing people back to Him. As followers of Jesus, we are called to do the same. Just as Aaron physically placed himself between death and life, we are called to stand between the lost and eternal separation from God. Jesus gives us both the authority and the mission to reach the lost. Reaching the lost "at any cost" means living with urgency, sharing the hope of Christ, and interceding in prayer for those who don't yet know Him. Like the ribbon of blue reminded Israel of their covenant, we too need constant reminders of our mission: to be faithful to God and bring others into life with Him.

4. What does "reaching the lost at any cost" look like for you personally?

Read Joshua 24:15

"And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua challenged Israel to make a clear choice: "Choose this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Like Joshua, we are called to decide daily whom we will follow—whether we will be faithful to God or allow fear, pride, or the opinions of others to pull us away. Our faith isn't passive; it requires active choice, daily obedience, and courage to stand firm in God's calling, no matter what others do.

5. Joshua made a firm choice for himself and his household. What does it look like for you to make that same commitment in your life today?

Prayer Points/Closing

- Pray for faithfulness to stay "true blue" to God in every area of life.
- Pray for boldness to stand in the gap and intercede for others.
- Pray for opportunities and courage to reach the lost with the hope of Christ.

Deeper Dive – Korah’s Rebellion and Christ’s Intercession

Korah’s rebellion is a vivid example of what happens when pride and discontent lead people to reject God’s authority. While Korah and the 250 leaders sought recognition for themselves, Aaron chose obedience and intercession, standing between the dead and the living. This Old Testament story points forward to Jesus, our ultimate High Priest, who intercedes for us and empowers us to stand in the gap for others. As we examine these passages, we’ll see both the danger of rebellion and the hope we have in Christ.

Read Numbers 16:1-3

“Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?””

Korah’s pride and jealousy caused him to challenge God’s chosen leadership, showing how easily we can lose sight of our calling when we focus on ourselves or compare to others.

Read Numbers 16:32-33

“And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.”

God’s judgment fell swiftly on rebellion. This demonstrates the serious consequences of turning away from His authority and ignoring His plan.

Read Numbers 16:47-48

“So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.”

Aaron’s intercession shows the power of standing in the gap for others, interceding with obedience and faithfulness rather than self-interest.

Hebrews 7:22-25

“This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”

Jesus is our ultimate High Priest, continually interceding on our behalf. Where Aaron's actions were temporary, Christ's intercession is eternal, giving us access to God's grace and mercy.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Because of Jesus' intercession, we can boldly come before God, receive mercy, and find help in times of need. This empowers us to pray for others and stand in the gap, just as Aaron did.

Questions:

1. How does Korah's rebellion illustrate the dangers of pride, discontent, and losing sight of God's calling?
2. How does Jesus' eternal intercession change the way we live, pray, and approach God?
3. In your own life, where might you need to rely on Jesus' intercession to help you stay faithful and obedient?