



Muhammed – Champion of the People

By Deacon Larry Andrews

Day 5

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Scriptures for Mediation

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them ... 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 1:6;9

Critical Race Facts!

In the midst of this growing instability, officials struggled to control increasingly violent and lawless groups of white supremacists in their states. Beginning as disparate "social clubs" of former Confederate soldiers, these groups morphed into large paramilitary organizations that drew thousands of members from all sectors of white society. Collectively, and with the tacit endorsement of the broader white community, their members launched a bloody reign of terror that would overthrow Reconstruction and sustain generations of white rule.

Prayer:

Lord, Give us the courage and confidence to fight for You, our culture, and the great causes in life that You place before us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Being the oldest of three children, I had the responsibility of looking after my sister and brother when my mother would leave for work or to go to the grocery store. I was left in charge. She didn't call it babysitting, she would say, "take care of the house."

On March 8, 1971, my mother, Janet Andrews, had a nice surprise and reward for me. She took me to see Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier fight at the Capital Theater in Portsmouth. The fight was televised per satellite from Madison Square Garden. Ali and Frazier were the first black boxers to draw a multi-million-dollar event. I liked both boxers, Ali for his astonishing speed and brilliant footwork and Frazier because he was like an attack dog--- he would keep coming at you.

As I grew older, I continued to follow Muhammad Ali as he fought for social justice and civil rights. Muhammad Ali said, "when you saw me in the ring fighting, it wasn't just so I could beat my opponent. My fighting had a purpose. I had to be successful in order to get people to listen to the things I had to say...I wanted to be a champion who was accessible to everyone. I hope to inspire other to take control of their lives and to live with pride and self-determination." He had a great influence on the black organizers of the Civil Rights Movement. His power as a heroic symbol brought together the entire span of the movement's theological spectrum.

Joshua 1:6-9, God told Joshua three times to be strong and of good courage. Joshua had the awesome task of leading the people of Israel into the promise land. As believers of Jesus Christ, we should be willing to stand up for what we believe.

Question to Ponder:

Name a time that God gave you the courage you needed to fight for a cause that was near and dear to you? What was the result? How can that testimony inspire others to have courage when facing life's fiercest battles?