

Questions

1. What does Joshua's encounter with the commander of the LORD's army reveal about whose battle Jericho really was?
2. Where in your life are you tempted to fight **for** victory instead of **from** the victory Christ has already secured? What might trusting His victory look like in that situation this week?
3. Why did God have Israel circle the city in silence with priests, trumpets, and the ark instead of using normal battle strategies?
4. What desire has been competing for your heart's worship lately? How does seeing Jesus as more satisfying help displace that idol?
5. Where do you sense God calling you to obey, even when it doesn't make sense? What would it look like to obey in the strength He supplies this week?
6. In what area of life do you most feel like you're white-knuckling obedience? How would it change your experience if you remembered that "it is God who works in you to will and to work" (Phil. 2:13)?

*Need prayer?
Someone will be up front by the piano
to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.*

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Joshua

The Story of
The Promise-Keeping God

Living In God's Victory

Joshua 5:13-6:27

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In Joshua 5:13–6, we learn three truths for living in God's victory so that we will surrender our battles to Him and walk in the good of His triumph.

JOSHUA 5:13-6 – OVERVIEW TEACHING

Joshua 5:13-15

In 5:13-15 is another echo of Exodus.

In Exodus 3, before Moses leads the people out of Egypt, he meets the angel of the LORD in the burning bush and is told, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." (Ex 3:5). And now, before Joshua leads the people into the land, he meets the commander of the LORD's army and is told the same thing. (5:15)

Joshua 6:1-5

This isn't a military strategy. It's a worship service.

Notice, two things:

1. God claims the battle as His own.
2. This is a war of worship.

Verse 2 means, Israel fought _____ victory, not _____ victory.

God had already secured the victory. All Israel needed to do was trust and obey.

6:6-21

Israel obeyed, not because the plan made sense, but because they trusted the sure promise behind it. (6:2)

(*"What About The Conquest"* handout at the Welcome Center.)

1. GOD SECURES THE BATTLE AND THE VICTORY (5:13-6:5)

The cross is the ultimate testimony that the battle belongs to the Lord. And since the battle belongs to the Lord, the victory is secure.

Galatians 5:16-17, 24—Like Israel, we're in a battle—the flesh versus the Spirit—where the battlefield is our hearts. And we too are called to march in step with God's presence. The command is, "walk by the Spirit." And in Christ, we fight not for victory, but from His.

Three Strategies for Fighting from Victory

1. Preach the Gospel to Yourself

2. Stop Negotiating with Sin

3. Walk in the Light

(*"Preaching the Gospel to Yourself"* handout at the Welcome Center)

2. GOD CENTERS THE BATTLE ON WORSHIP (6:1-20)

Israel's true battle wasn't against Jericho, but against unbelief. Would they trust and obey God? And our war is the same.

1 Peter 2:11

"Sinful desires" is New Testament language for the sinful longings of the heart. And sinful desires are really worship problems. They reveal when we love or desire something more than God.

James 4:1-2 — cravings underly conflicts

This is a war of worship. It's about seeing Jesus as all-satisfying.

3. GOD EMPOWERS HIS PEOPLE'S OBEDIENCE (6:2, 6-20)

When God commands us, He also gives us His empowering grace to obey.

Philippians 2:12-13 — "12...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose."

Sanctification is only possible because God is in us, empowering us to obey. And God's work reaches deeper than our behavior; it goes to our desires. God works in you to will—to want to work.