

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

August 2012

Joshua: Hope for God's People

Lesson #5: Whose Battle Is It Really?

What were you taught about fighting when you were growing up?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Joshua 5:13 – 6:27

Note: Jericho was a strategic location to begin the campaign, dominating the lower Jordan Valley and the routes into the hill country to the west.

1. Based on the response of the “soldier” (CINC with a sword - Heb 4:12; Rev 19:15) that Joshua confronts, do you think the impending battle is more spiritual or physical? Why? Why didn't he rebuke Joshua for worshipping him? What can we learn about Joshua's worship experience?
2. Does this mean that God is on their side or that they are on God's side? What difference does it make?
Note: The Chinese Bible teacher Watchman Nee wrote, “Not until we take the place of a servant can He take His place as Lord.”¹ In a meeting with a small group of missionaries in China, James Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission (now Overseas Missionary Fellowship) reminded them that there were three ways to do God's work: “One is to make the best plans we can, and carry them out to the best of our ability ... or, having carefully laid our plans and determined to carry them through, we may ask God to help us, and to prosper us in connection with them. Yet another way of working is to begin with God; to ask His plans, and to offer ourselves to Him to carry out His purposes.”¹²
3. How does this encounter with God compare to Moses' commissioning? Ex 3:5, 6
4. What difference did this encounter make to Joshua and the Israelites? Josh 1:5, 9; Ex 15:3
Note: Harry Truman said, “To be President of the US is very lonely, especially in times of great decisions.”
5. Why did God use this very specific and unusual battle plan?
Note: In this plan the emphasis is on the number seven.. The number seven is written clearly into the life of Israel: In biblical numerology the number seven represents completeness or perfection. The Hebrew word translated “seven” (shevah) comes from a root that means “to be full, to be satisfied.” When God finished His work of creation, He rested on the seventh day and sanctified it (Gen. 2:3); and this helped give the number seven its sacred significance. Anything involving the number seven was especially sacred to them. It spoke of God's ability to finish whatever He started.³
6. Why were the priests and the ark so heavily involved in the battle plan? How would you have felt about this if you were a soldier? An inhabitant of Jericho?
7. Why did he tell the people to be silent as they marched?
8. How did Joshua keep the focus on God during the battle preparation? Why?
9. What lessons was God teaching the Israelites during their seven days of marching? 1 Jn 5:4
10. What did it mean for Joshua to declare that the city and all its inhabitants be devoted to the Lord? Lev 27:28; Dt 20:17-18; Neh 10:37
11. What can we learn about God's protection from the way Rehab was treated? v. 6:17; 22-23

APPLICATION

What principles of victory can we learn about the conquest of Jericho?

What wall is keeping you from experiencing God's love completely?

^{1 2 3} Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Strong*. “Be” Commentary Series (65, 66, 73). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹ Dr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor, *Biography of James Hudson Taylor* (London: China Inland Mission, 1965), p. 271.

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be Strong*. “Be” Commentary Series (65, 66, 73). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
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