

Text: Joshua 5

Message: "As Commander of the army of the LORD"

INTRODUCTION

1. Lessons that Joshua had to learn as the new leader of Israel
 - a. God's promise to be with Joshua Joshua 1
 - b. God's instruction to be strong and to keep His word Joshua 1
 - c. God's power to dry up the Jordan River Joshua 3
 - d. The preparation to enter the Promised Land Joshua 4-5
 - i. Set up memorial stones to remember this event
 - ii. Circumcised the men who were born in the wilderness
 - iii. Kept the Passover in Gilgal
 - e. Joshua had proven himself to be a good leader so far!
2. What lessons did Joshua need to learn before he leads them to battle in the Promised Land?

RECOGNISING GOD AS THE TRUE LEADER

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."

Joshua 5:13-14a

1. Joshua's encounter with the Commander of the army of the LORD
 - a. Joshua was by Jericho
 - b. He saw a Man standing opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand
2. Joshua's interaction with the Commander of the army of the LORD
 - a. Query - "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"
 - i. Joshua challenged Him

- ii. He was concerned whether He is for them or for the enemy
- b. Reply – “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”
 - i. He did not give Joshua an answer
 - ii. He simply introduced Himself as the Commander of the army of the LORD!
- 3. Purpose of this encounter – for Joshua to recognise who is the true Leader in charge!
 - a. God had promised to go before them and fight for them cf. Deuteronomy 1:30
 - b. He had sent the Commander of His army to fulfil this
 - c. Joshua had to remember that while he was made leader, it was God who was in charge!

RESPONDING HUMBLY AS GOD’S SERVANT

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

Joshua 5:14b

- 1. Joshua’s response to the Commander of the army of the LORD
 - a. He fell on his face to the earth
 - b. He worshipped Him
 - c. He said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”
- 2. His response was one of humble submission
 - a. That God was rightfully the Lord and Leader of Israel
 - b. Joshua was but a humble servant before God
 - c. He would submit himself humbly in worship
 - d. He would wait on God to give him orders as His servant

RENEWING HIS APPRECIATION OF GOD’S HOLINESS

Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:15

1. The Commander's instruction to Joshua
 - a. To take his sandal off his foot
 - b. For the place where he stood was holy
 - c. Reminiscent of the Lord's instruction to Moses cf. Exodus 3:5
2. This was to teach Joshua about the holiness of God
 - a. That God is holy
 - b. There must be proper regard for God's holiness
 - c. Removing his sandals is an expression of revering Him in His holiness!

THE CHALLENGE FOR US

1. 3 lessons for us to learn in life
 - a. Recognising God as the True Leader of our life
 - b. Responding to Him humbly as His servant
 - c. Renewing our appreciation of His holiness
2. If we can make these lessons a part of our life
 - a. We will find a closer relationship with God
 - b. We will experience His leading in our life
 - c. We will discover His blessings in a wonderful way