

Marching to Victory: Spiritual Preparation Josh 5

God's Ways Are Not Man's Ways: Consecration before Participation

1. The nations were afraid of Israel because of Israel's God [verse 1]
 - a. World's wisdom – attack while enemy is terrified
 - b. World's wisdom – attack before enemy can make preparations
2. Israel obeyed God rather than man's wisdom [verse 2-12]
 - a. God called for a 3-day delay to observe 2 sacred ceremonies
 - b. Circumcision disabled the army for a period of time [Gen 34]
 - c. If nations had known of Israel's impotence, then attacked
 - d. Wisdom of God ≠ Wisdom of the World [1 Cor 1:18-31]
 - **e. God is more concerned that the hearts of God's people to be **right** than gain a **momentary** military advantage

God's Camp: The Place Where Reproach is Rolled Away [verse 10]

1. Gilgal – literally means **to roll off**
 - a. God removes Israel's shame from Egypt
 - (1) Some commentators suggest the shame of bondage
 - (2) Some suggest the shame of taunt from Egypt [Ex 32:12]
 - (3) **Some suggest the shame of rebellion - wandering**
2. Circumcision – a **token or sign** of God's covenant [Gen 17]
 - a. It was made with Abraham
 - (1) God would multiply his seed
 - (2) God would give his seed the land of Canaan
 - (3) God would be their God, an everlasting covenant – His promise
 - (4) Man would obey and be constantly reminded of God's promise
 - b. It was reaffirmed by Moses [Ex 12:48] [Ex 4:24-26 - now ready]
 - c. It was reinstated by Joshua, but why so long? [Numbers 13-14]
 - (1) Israel had rebelled and was being punished by God
 - (2) It was a sign of "new beginnings" (Now ready to do battle)
 - d. It has a NT symbol in **baptism**
 - (1) "Putting off the body of sins in the flesh" [Col 2:10-11]
 - (2) Not victory over a sin or sins – unsaved can do that
 - (3) Deals with the heart, not just external [Rom 2:28-29]
 - (4) It is the union and communion (fellowship) with Christ in his death to sin and resurrection to life [Rom 6:12-13]

a) Accomplished in and through **faith [1 Pet 5:9; 1 Jn 5:4]

(b) Faith comes and increases through the Word [Rom 10:17]

"Though Christ has put away the whole of the guilt and pollution of their sins, He has not yet fully delivered them from its power [the flesh] – that they might prove the sufficiency of His grace, the marvels of His forbearance, and the reality of His keeping power; and that there might be opportunity for the trial, exercises, and development of their graces." [Arthur Pink]

3. Passover – a meal of remembrance [Ex 12]
 - a. Remember God passed over your sins for a substitute
 - b. Israel was no less sinful than the Egyptians
 - c. Manna stopped the next day when produce of land eaten
 - d. Jordan was “passed over” – death, judgment, and a new beginning
 - (1) God’s miraculous feeding ceases
 - (2) God’s miraculous provision continues in natural ways
 - e. It has a NT symbol in the Lord’s Supper [Matt 26:26-29]

4. At Gilgal people were to remember God’s covenant, promises, and past acts of deliverance so that they would live as his people in the days ahead.
 - a. “Americans are always anxious to rush ahead w/ some program and the larger the effort and the faster it is executed the better. This is not always God’s way.” [Boice]
 - **b. What we do is important – What we are is more important

God’s Commander: The Captain of the Lord’s Host [verses 13-15]

1. Joshua’s encounter when reconnoitering Jericho
 - a. An unrecognizable man that was a soldier, his sword drawn
 - b. “Are you for us or for our enemies?”
 - c. Answer reveals someone of greater authority – Joshua worships
 - d. Command reveals encounter with God – [see Ex 3:5]
 - e. God as “Angel of the Lord” [Gen 3; 18; 32; 2 Kings 6; Ps 34:7]

2. God will lead his people into battle – “never leave thee or forsake”
 - **a. It is not Joshua to claim the allegiance of God for his cause, but rather God to claim Joshua
 - b. Do we try to marshal God for our programs or follow his leading?
 - (1) What is God’s will? [doing what God has told us in his word]
 - (2) What is God’s will for my life? [self-seeking not kingdom seeking]