

Faith Triumphs: Joshua's People

Joshua 5:1-15

Main Idea: Faith triumphs through covenant renewal that brings obedience, blessing, and worship.

¹³When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" ¹⁵And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Introduction

- The terror in Jericho - **5:1**
- The preparation comes before the victory

Faith Triumphs Through Covenant Renewal - (vv. 2-7)

- Realizing the need - **vv. 2-6**
 - **Matthew 5:27-30**
- Receiving the grace - **vv. 7-8**
 - **Matthew 3:8-12**

Faith Triumphs In Covenant Obedience - (vv. 2-11)

- Obedience through circumcision - **vv. 2-7**
- Why circumcision?
 - To renew their relationship - **Genesis 17:11**
 - To test their faith - **v. 8**
 - **Psalm 66:8-12**
 - To remove their shame - **v. 9**
 - **Isaiah 61:7**
 - To allow them to celebrate the Passover
 - **Exodus 12:43-44, 48; Isaiah 63:8**
- Obedience through remembering - **Exodus 12:11-14**
 - Remembering the blood - **v. 13**
 - Remembering the deliverance - **v. 14**

Faith Triumphs By Covenant Blessings - (vv. 11-15)

- The blessing of God's provision - **vv. 11-12**
 - The fruit starts and the manna stops - **v. 6c**
- The blessing of God's presence - **vv. 12-15**
 - The Commander appears
 - The leader worships
- The blessing of God's protection - **v. 14**
 - The need of His presence
 - The priority of our worship

Worship is an inward feeling and outward action that reflects the worth of God. - John Piper

So What?

- Do I need vival or revival?
 - Vival: **Colossians 2:8-15**
 - Revival: **Revelation 2:3-5**

“You can never take Jericho, Christian worker, till you have been circumcised, till God has taken away your self-reliance, and has brought you down into the dust of death; then, when the sentence of death is in yourself, you will begin to experience the energy of the divine life, the glory of the divine victory.”

- Am I willing to embrace God's preparation in order to experience God's victory?

Now What? (Small Group Discussion)

- Has God ever taken you through a difficult season or a time of testing that made no sense? What is God's purpose in this preparation?
- Reread **Joshua 5:12-14**. When it comes to fighting the fight of faith, who is our enemy? Is God on my side or am I on His side? What's the difference?
 - The point of the exchange seems to be that it was not for Joshua to claim the allegiance of God for his cause, however right it was, but rather for God to claim Joshua.
 - The two would fight together, but Joshua would be following the commander of the armies of the Lord in his cause and battles rather than it being the other way around.
 - This is a most profound principle. Christians have a tendency to marshal God for their programs rather than simply follow him wherever he leads
 - No denomination has a monopoly of God's grace, and none has an exclusive recipe for producing Christian character.

- Whether we are Anglicans with our high sensitivity to churchmanship and liturgics; Roman Catholics with our firm beliefs about apostolic succession; independents with our fear of being bound by forms or rituals; or even Presbyterians with our high regard for the theology of the Reformation, particularly in its Calvinistic forms, the God in our minds is always smaller than the true, living God, if only because our minds (however stretched by Scripture) are too small to fully conceive of or encompass him.
- Read **Joshua 5:11** and **John 6:35-59**. What does Jesus mean that we should feast on Him and how do we do it?
 - <https://openthebible.org/open-the-bible-daily/how-you-feed-on-christ/>
 - <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/worship-the-feast-of-christian-hedonism>
 - “To feed on Christ is to get his strength into us to be our strength. You feed on the cornfield, and the strength of the cornfield comes into you, and is your strength. You feed on Christ, and then go and live your life; and it is Christ in you that lives your life, that helps the poor, that tells the truth, that fights the battle, and that wins the crown” Phillips Brooks.
- Why is both Baptism and the Lord’s Supper important to the body of Christ? Discuss what they signify and what we are to remember. How should weekly celebration of the Lord’s support impact us as we fight the fight of faith?
 - Stress how baptism reflects the heart circumcision that has already occurred (Col. 2:8-15).
 - Question CLXV. *What is Baptism?*
 - Answer. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein Christ hath ordained the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to be a sign and seal of ingrafting into himself, of remission of sins by his blood, and regeneration by his Spirit; of adoption, and resurrection unto everlasting life; and whereby the parties baptized are solemnly admitted into the visible church, and enter into an open and professed engagement to be wholly and only the Lord’s.
Ridgley, T. (1855). [*A Body of Divinity*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 492). Robert Carter & Brothers.
 - Question CLXVIII. *What is the Lord’s Supper?*
 - Answer. The Lord’s Supper is a sacrament of the New Testament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, his death is showed forth; and they that worthily communicate, feed upon his body and blood, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, have their union and communion with him confirmed, testify and renew their thankfulness, and engagement to

God, and their mutual love and fellowship each with other, as members of the same mystical body.

Ridgley, T. (1855). [*A Body of Divinity*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 517). Robert Carter & Brothers.