

2.3 Joshua and people of Israel need to seek God in prayer (Joshua 5:13)

- Joshua now seeks God in prayer. *'Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"'* Joshua goes away from the camp to seek a solitary place to pray and he was no doubt worried that the people of Jericho might at any point attack them hence his comments to this person he meets.
- Joshua's situation has just got worse. Not only does his command an army of nomads who have just come out of the desert with absolutely no military experience but he now commands an army who have just knobbled themselves through circumcision. He and they cannot be in a weaker position.
- Joshua's 'posture of prayer' therefore is desperation. He knows what a weak situation they are in. God always delights to enter into impossible situations. He is then able to demonstrate his strength. The Apostle Paul had learnt this again and again which is why he says in his letter to the Corinthians that *'For when I am weak, then I am strong'* (2 Cor 12:10)
- In our own personal difficult situations is our 'posture of prayer' one of desperation?

2.4 Joshua and the people of Israel need to trust God for the solution (Joshua 5:14)

- God then says something extremely important to Joshua. *"but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come."* God in effect reminds Joshua that this is not his battle it is God's. God is the commander in chief not Joshua.
- When Joshua is at his weakest God comes and meets him. God draws close in relationship. He knows what Joshua is feeling and thinking and he comes to give him reassurance. He comes and encourages him. God asks him to trust to him.
- Are we prepared as we face our own Jericho's to do the same thing?

3. Questions to consider at home?

- 3.1 What are the Jericho like situations you are facing at the moment?
- 3.2 Are you right with God? Would you say that you are 100% committed to him? If not what may be blocking your relationship with him?
- 3.3 Are you trying to solve your Jericho situation on your own or have you called in the *'commander in chief'*? Do you trust God to solve it?
- 3.4 In what 'posture of prayer' have you been approaching God?
- 3.5 As you look back over your spiritual journey do you identify with the Apostle Paul when he says *'For when I am weak, then I am strong'*

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Joshua 5:13-15 'The Posture of Prayer'

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

1. Talk Passage – Joshua 5:13-15 (Page 271 in the pew Bibles)

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

14 "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

15 The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

2. Talk Notes

2.1 Joshua is facing a monumental issue.

- He has started a new job as the leader of the Israelites having taken over from Moses. He has been charged with the job of taking the Promised Land that God promised them forty years earlier. They are now camped at Gilgal. But a few miles down road from Gilgal is Jericho a walled city. How will a group of nomads, with no recent military experience take a walled city?
- Joshua discovered that there were three things he needed to do:
 - i. He and the people of Israel need to be right with God
 - ii. He and people of Israel need to seek God in prayer
 - iii. He and the people of Israel need to trust God for the solution

2.2 Joshua and the people of Israel need to be right with God (Joshua 5:1-12)

- Before God can act in our difficult situations he needs to know that we are fully committed to him. That we have put him in control of lives.
- God wanted to know that this was the case with the Israelites camped at Gilgal. Were they prepared to commit their lives fully to God? Were they prepared to come into total relationship with him?
- God had made a covenant with them through Abraham, were they prepared to make a covenant with him.
- God now asks them to perform two outward signs that demonstrate an inner commitment the first was male circumcision and the second was to celebrate the Passover.

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