
New Things

#1 – Moving to New Things

Joshua 5:13-15

Introduction

We usually can't move forward to new things because of two reasons:

- Stuck in the past
- Fear of the future

This morning I want to give some principles how to overcome this chronic crippling bondage to move forward to the exciting new things God has for us.

The book of Joshua is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham 430 years ago. God is sovereign and keeps his promises.

Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.
Joshua 21:45

A brief outline Book of Joshua

Chapter 1: Commission of Joshua;

Chapters 2 to 4 is all about the Crossing;

Chapter 6 to the end is about Possessing.

Chapter 5- it's about Process

Key Message: Process before Possession.

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?"

"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[a] have for his servant?"

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.

Joshua 5:13-15

Context:

- o dried the Jordan river- crossed into the Promised Land

- o circumcise all those born in the wilderness

- o looking at the walls of Jericho

God reveals himself in three ways

Joshua make three shifts in the Process

Focus on God: Head – *our mind plays games with us*

Joshua needed a shift of focus- a shift of Perspective – away from the unsurmountable problem to the Almighty God

God got Joshua's attention by appearing to him as a warrior

Mighty Appearance- in the form of a warrior

God appeared as a man- theophany

Joshua looked up and he saw... he asked and he recognised

He fell down and he worshipped- mighty appearance- brought about a change of focus

Alignment with God's Position: Heart – *the heart is deceitful above all things*

Are you for us or are you for our enemies...?

Unexpected reply- *"Neither..."*

God is on no man's side- he is on his own side.

A shift of Position – onto his side

Alignment comes after a change of allegiance.

Mighty Act – caused the Jordan to dry up

Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they[a] had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Joshua 5:1

God's command puzzles Joshua. Why now? It makes no sense?

After the mighty act – Joshua obeyed-

At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

Joshua 5:2-3

The key is not physical circumcision but circumcision of the heart –
Deuteronomy 30:6

Time with God: Feet – Priority

What message have you got for me?

Take off your shoes

Mighty Word- Take off your shoes...Ephesians 6- part of armour of God

Presence – intimacy – take time out - let go of plan and program.

God is not concerned about you being ready for battle but rather that you're rooted in him.

The battle is the Lord's.

The wall of Jericho fell