

Joshua 5:13-6:5

The Need for Surrender

13 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?”

14 So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”

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

15 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.

In the Mid 1960’s Bubba Smith was a Defensive lineman for Michigan State Spartans who was recently Voted one of the 100 greatest players of all time/ Bubba great name for – Football player

A)Bubba – is a great name for a Football player – especially if you looked like Bubba Smith

B)6’8” 280 pounds all man

C)He went on to have a amazing Hall of Fame NFL career

D)Before moving into Acting

Bubba had a very Embarrassing moment in College
A)Bubba’s Michigan State Spartans were playing arch rivals the University of Michigan Wolverines

B)Bubba 6’8 280 Defensive end –

1)But on this day was going both ways – Playing on the offensive line- as well

C)His task that day: Keep 5’7 160lbs Leon Morris out of the Backfield

D)1st Play – Legs / 2nd Same / 3rd – Shoulder / 4th – Bite your head off

Leon Morris was able to succeed & do well – on the gridiron because of sheer hard work/ Determination
A)What is true in sports is often times the opposite of what is true in the Christian life

B)Victory in the Christian life is not a matter of hard work and determination – but of Surrender

C)Too be honest this was a hard thing for me to learn as a Christian

D)As an average athlete – I had to work harder than everyone else to succeed.

I carried that mentality into my Christian life –

A)But this is what I soon discovered that the harder I tried to overcome sin in my life – the more I failed

B)Or if I did happen to succeed the more exhausted I became – it didn’t last

C)It took me a long time to discover that Victory in the Christian life wasn’t in trying harder

1)Or in doing more –

D)It is in Surrender

E)This is illustrated in the life of Joshua here in Chapter 5

Note: We are going to do groups tonight – and here is a question I want us to ponder/ answer –

A)Why is it so hard for men in particular to reach a place of surrender.

B)Here in Joshua Ch. 5 – Joshua is out Surveying Jericho Huge wall 30 ft High / 15 thick –

1)he has an interesting ENCOUNTER

C)One that gives us some great insight into bringing down the walls that can stand in our way –

1)Spiritual growth / Victory Rd v.13-15

D)Note tonight 4 things that led to this major Victory for Israel

#1 Joshua needed a fresh Vision of the Lord

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B)Who was this man dressed in Full Battle Array ?
Jesus {Theophany - Christophany

C)OT appearance of Jesus in a bodily form... prior to the incarnation

How do we know that this was Jesus? – Notice Joshua's reaction in V.14b And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped,

A)Now often times in the OT when an Angel appeared to someone – same reaction – Worship

B)The Angels would always say- Get up don't worship me... only God

C)That doesn't happen here – the worship is accepted

D)And Notice that what the Commander says to Joshua V.15

15 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." [MOSES] And Joshua did so.

So all of this points to this being a Theophany or a Christophany – Jesus in the OT

A)Now we are studying the I AM statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John

B)Noted that these I Am statements were connected to the way God revealed himself to Moses – I Am

C)Noted – I am the Becoming one – I Am and will be whatever you need –

What does Joshua need in this moment?

A)He is leading a group of untrained men – He doesn't have much Battle experience himself

B)He needs a Battle strategy – He needs a General who knows what he is doing

C)And that is exactly how Jesus appears to him – as the Commander of the Army of the Lord

Why was it so important that Joshua – Have this encounter w/ the Lord and Have this Revelation of Him as the Commander? 2 Reasons

A)#1 Joshua needed to Know that this battle was a spiritual battle

B)Even though the enemy was Physical – the battle was a spiritual one

1)Fresh perspective about this battle

C)Guys we so desperately need to be reminded of that as well –

¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Ephesians 6:12

D)You are not fighting your wife, your boss, the neighbor down the street – the bro in the church

E)The battle is a spiritual one – Demonic forces behind the conflict – {No wife..... demon ☺

The 2nd reason why Jesus reveals himself to Joshua as the commander –

A)Joshua needed to Know the Battle belonged to the Lord

B)It wasn't going to be his ingenuity that brought about the Victory –

C)Victory was going to come from the Lord

³For although we live in the flesh, we do not wage war according to the flesh, ⁴since the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

So the first thing we see is that Joshua needed a Fresh Vision of the Lord before the battle.

One more thing before we move on. – **When did this Vision Come?**

A)It came when Joshua got alone.

B)He is away from the camp – he is away from the distractions – he is away from the voices

C)He is off by himself – considering what is ahead and this is when Jesus appears to him afresh

Guys this is a pivotal point – but also very hard for men.

A)Most men are doers – and because we are doers it is hard for us to get alone with God and be still.

B)But it is a necessity – Practice of Solitude – No phone – no devices – you God – Bible – Journal

C) Speak Lord your servant is listening

Jesus modeled this

A) Mark 1 Jesus is in Capernaum – in the Synagogue he cast a Demon out of a guy

B) Immediately his fame spread throughout the whole region of Galilee

C) Then he heals Peter's mother in law –

D) Everyone brings their sick – long day & night
If Jesus ever had a reason to sleep in one day this was the day. But here is what we read

³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. Mark 1:35

A) The Disciples wake up and there are crowds already at the door wanting more of Jesus

B) They find him say: Master everyone is looking for you.

C) Jesus having come from the place of prayer and spending time with the father – says ... move on

If there was ever a moment in the life of Jesus where we could have been caught up in the moment

A) Distracted by the need or the popularity it was this one

B) But because he got up early and got alone with His father – He gets the direction he needed

C) If Jesus the Son of God needed to do this guys – how much more do we need to do this

1) Get alone with God

Peter practiced this: Acts 10 lunch time – busy time

A) He finds a quiet place on a roof top – quiet time with the Lord – quiet his heart

B) It is there he receives fresh vision about how the Lord wants to bring the gospel to the Gentiles

C) So many of the great leaders in the Bible Moses, David, Paul - were great leaders

1) because they practiced being alone with God

I have found this to be THE KEY in leading our church -leading MY FAMILY

A) I need to hear clearly from God –

B) and that only happens when I discipline myself to get alone with him

C) Morning Devo's yes – but I try once a week – I set aside a couple of hrs – late afternoon... walk

1) I will be home later today

D) Hard – so much on my plate – so much to do here and at home – but so Vital

E) Another thing I try to do is once a month or once every other month – set aside a half day –

1) Get away with the Lord

F) Never done that – try it – Be Amazed

Keys to Victory

#1 Joshua needed a Fresh Vision of the Lord

A) Fresh vision led to a fresh Perspective- the battle is a spiritual battle that belongs to the Lord

#2 Joshua's response: (We noted this -build on it)

A) There are two things that we want to note about Joshua's response that were Key to this victory

B) 1st Joshua Worshipped – And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped V.14b

C) The word worship here is *Shachah* in the Hebrew – it is used 170 times in the OT –

1) means to fall on one's face / prostrate oneself

D) Joshua prostrated himself before the commander of the army of the Lord

It is describing an act of worship that is first of all Humble :

A) It is acknowledging the superiority of the one being worshipped

B) It is declaring *You are the king & I am your servant?*

1) Saying *You are the commander I am at your service*

But it also describes an act of worship that is so Intense – that the whole body is involved

A) In that culture You could give honor to a king by lifting your hands / giving gifts

B)Or by lifting voices – Hail the King /

C)But this act of Prostration was the most intense of all – because it involved all of these other forms

D)Arms were stretched out / Humility was depicted by stooping to the lowest possible position –
1)face to the ground

E)Your whole body language declaring & proclaiming that you were offering yourself as a gift /
1)a Living Sacrifice

So this was a very intense portrayal of worship that was being depicted here.

A)Guys can I encourage you – US -ME TOO – lets be passionate and intense about our worship.

B)Our kids/ grandkids need see us passionate and excited and intense for more than our sports teams

C)Would that CV be filled with men who are not afraid to be intense in their worship to God!

There was a time when worship was happening – the Women’s voices would much louder than the men
A)That has evened out – most of the time –

B)But I think it would be awesome – if the voice of the men here far louder in worship than the women

C)People come in here – Unbelievers come in here – this place is filled with men – passionate for God

John 4 God is looking for worshippers.....truth

A)Listen I don’t know exactly why God desires our worship – he doesn’t need for us to tell him ...great

B)But I know this – Everything that God desires for me is best for me.

C)Worship is essential first of all because it acknowledges the Greatness of God : He is King /
1)Almighty / Creator / Sustainer / Savior

Worship is essential because it proclaims our DEPENDENCY on the Lord

A)Worship is essential because it releases our FEARS : How so?

B)When I enter in – start proclaiming how great God is / How mighty He is / How wonderful He is /

1) Reminders of all He has done

C)It affects my perspective so that I see the things against me in light of who He is /

1)His Might/ His strength / His greatness / His ability vs my inability

D)My whole perspective is changed – in worship

Worship Prepares my Heart for submission

A)Which is the 2nd thing that we want to note about Joshua’s response – He submits – What do You want me to do?

B)Joshua is surrendering himself to the Lord.

C)Notice early in this exchange V. 13 Joshua asks the question Are you for us ... adversaries

D)Jesus answers in V.14 – NO – NO WHAT – what kind of answer is that ?

So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”

A)Commander Jesus is saying to Joshua – Wrong Question – the question is not am I with you

B)That is a Given – I promised to lead you guide you protect you – bring you into the land

C)The Question is not Am I with you Joshua – the REAL QUESTION IS Are you with ME?

D)Are you willing to let me lead you? – That is the Question

That is the question for all of us tonight

A)Are we surrendered to Jesus – in every area of our lives – Your walk? Fully surrendered –

B)Profession? Your Marriage ? Your family ?

C)Baby Dedications – Again when teens – again at 18

D)My Plan or God’s plan for my Kid – My Dad...BB
5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

A)Trust means the same as Shacah – Lay face down yielded – Vulnerable

B) Inner tube on a Lake – Friends –

1) Lets see how far we can launch Rob – high 5

C) God is not like that – no high fiving in heaven

Trust is saying – Lord I am willing to be completely surrendered to you.

A) 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,

B) Acknowledge is not simply giving the Lord an FYI – Lord FYI new business/ ministry/ propose

C) Acknowledge here means – seeking to know his heart and mind

D) Guys this is the kind of surrender the Lord is wanting from us

This brings me to the question again – Why is it so hard for us to do that as men?

A) Is it our pride – We think we know better

B) Is it Fear – We don't really believe God is able or loving

C) My recent decision to step down as Lead Pastor

1) Friends – Crazy – still young? Fear- Career Suicide

D) Listen to God or Listen to fear – friends

1) Trusting God knows what is best for this church and for me and my family

So Keys to Victory

#1 Joshua needed a Fresh Vision of the Lord

#2 Joshua's response – Worship and Surrender

#3 Joshua received Instruction from the Lord

Surrender leads to Instruction

A) Sometimes we never receive the instruction from the Lord we desire

B) Because God is waiting for that heart of surrender

C) The heart posture that is willing to do what he is going to tell us to do

D) Because often times what God tells us makes no sense to us – Surely the case here

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

² And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given

Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor.

E) Ok Great – how is this going to happen

Here is the battle plan

³ You shall march around the city, all *you* men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. ⁴ And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵ It shall come to pass, when they make a long *blast* with the ram's horn, *and* when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

Guys this was a Crazy Battle plan

A) Imagine being on Joshua's military counsel when he gets back – Ok what is the plan?

B) Build ramps? Wait them out until they starve?

C) Joshua ways nope – Nothing like that – March around the city 6 days – once a day

D) On the 7th day march around it 7 times – the whole time marching – say nothing – total silence

E) Why? Complainers – this is stupid –

So 13 times marching around the city in total silence and then the priest blow trumpets

A) Then we are all going to shout – and the walls are going to come crashing down

B) Imagine being on this counsel – Joshua has lost his mind – Sunstroke – Food poisoning – CRAZY

C) I don't know what is the bigger miracle – that God brought the walls down

1) Or that the people went along with this plan

Side note Groups: Do you have a story of some crazy instruction you got from God. How did it play out ?

D) My current situation – Crazy to some.

Church plant – Move 1,000 miles small town of 5,000

A) Plant in a community of 200 ?

B) That location helped us draw from 7 different communities within a 30 minutes of that spot

C) God knew what he was doing.

Question: Why 7 days? Why 13 trips around the walls? Why not one day

A) Why does God make them wait?

B) Everyday – the walls seemed more ominous
The task more impossible

C) Sometimes God makes us wait so that we realize the only way this is happening is God

D) Another question tonight why hard to wait?

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

As we wait on his timing and His plan – we don't get weary or fainthearted –

A) He gives strength and power as we wait

B) Next time you are feeling worn out or stressed out stop & ask yourself this question

1) when is the last time I took the time to Wait on the Lord ?!

Keys to Victory

A) Fresh Vision – that leads to Worship and surrender that leads to instruction

**B) Follow the instruction from the Lord
#4 – This will require a movement of faith**

C) After the 7 days and the 13 trips around the wall – they had to blow the trumpets and shout

D) That took faith!

Now here is the dilemma what if I shout & nothing happens?

A) What if I step out in faith & fall on my face !
That is the chance we take

B) But my experience is when we have sought the Lord –

C) Bowed our hearts in worship & surrender & received that instruction

1) We have waited on Him – When He says it is time to shout –

D) It is because – He is going to do something great
1) It is in those moments that

God is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all we can think or ask!

But I will say this: I have had plenty of times when the moment came to take the step of faith

A) God didn't do what I thought he was going to do

B) This is where I learned - the Bottom line is not the Result/ But it is our Obedience to Him

C) Back to the question: Am I willing to surrender?

D) Well that is where we will pick up the story next Wednesday.

Keys to Victory

#1 Fresh Vision of the Lord – that is going to come when we take the time to get away

#2 We need the right response – Worship and Surrender

#3 The Right response puts us in the place for receive instruction from the Lord

#4 That instruction is going to require a step of faith

But that is often when things get exciting!