



Sunday, October 27, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 5

One of the most gracious things that God does for us is humble us to understand our need for Christ. The gospel teaches us that we are sinful creatures destined for eternal punishment in hell and that only Christ's death on the cross is sufficient to atone for our sins. We cannot do anything to atone for them ourselves. Certainly, if that greatest of all needs is true in the gospel, then He is sufficient for us in our daily needs as well.

The spies recognized their plight. They knew they were not sufficient to conquer the giants in the land of Canaan on their own (Numbers 13). The problem was that they failed to grapple with the sufficiency of Almighty God to lead them in and conquer their enemies before their very eyes. This is a good reminder for us as we contemplate our own ultimate destiny, but also the day-to-day circumstances of our lives. Yes, we are incapable of accomplishing anything for God, but in Christ we find the power of God at work in us to accomplish all that God has called us to.

Context

This story follows another report of the spies (Joshua 2) but precedes the story of following through and taking the land, beginning with Jericho (Joshua 6). As stated above, the fault of the spies in the generation that preceded this one was that they failed to believe that God was able to deliver their enemies into their hands. They saw their weakness, but they failed to see God's strength. In this story, we see that God insists that Joshua, the leader of the people, have a sense of the power of God and His ability to conquer all His enemies. After all, the fight has never been against flesh and blood, but against the powers and authorities in the heavenly places, and the commander of the army of the LORD reminds us of that.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 5:1-15

“Meet the Captain”

The Covenant Renewed (2-12)

- Circumcision Reinstated

- Passover Reinstated

The Captain Encountered (13-15)

- His Identity

- Our Need

Discuss

- 1) How important is the Lord's Supper in your mind? Why is that?
- 2) What other things, besides Christ, are we tempted to pursue in order to satisfy our deepest longings as human beings?
- 3) Pastor Don said we shouldn't concern ourselves with whether God is on "our" side or "their" side, but whether we are on the Lord's side. What do you think of that statement? How have you seen that tension in your own life?
- 4) One of our biggest problems is that we think we are God and we rely on our own strength to accomplish our own purposes. Has God humbled you so that you won't think like that? How?
- 5) When you read the Bible and pray, how often do you understand that time as being "in the Lord's presence"? What prevents us from understanding that more often?