

Participating on God's Terms

Joshua 5

Joshua 5 – Participating on God’s Terms

“As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.² At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.”³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-Haaraloth

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵ Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶ For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished,

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

because they did not obey the voice of the LORD; the LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.⁷ So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.⁸ When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed.⁹

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

When 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?”¹⁴ And 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?”¹⁵ And 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.” Joshua 5

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

1. Conditions For Conquering Ripe vs.1

- Massive Momentum
- 'hearts melted', 'no longer courage to face'
- Human perspective - got this lets attack

2. God's Conditions for Moving Forward vs.2-12

a) covenant conditions

- sign of covenant – Gen. 17:9-11

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

- ▣ obedience issue
- ▣ Personal participation, private place
- ▣ Public in identifying who you belong to
- ▣ *Interesting
 - ▣ In enemy territory
 - ▣ Defenseless for several days
 - ▣ Could bring loss of momentum

Joshua 5 – Participating on God’s Terms

Isaiah 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

b) Passover Party vs.9-10

- ▣ stop to recount and be reminded
- ▣ who God is, how we got here, declare trust

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

- ▣ interesting to note
 - ▣ 1st Passover... Exodus 13:11-14 (13:5ff instructions)
 - ▣ 2nd Passover Celebration... Numbers 9:11-14
 - ▣ This will be 3rd Celebration of Passover

c) New Diet vs. 11-12

- ▣ see move from manna to produce of the land
- ▣ significant shift of how God provides and allows them to manage

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

3. Battle Belongs to the Lord vs. 13-15

- question – friend or foe?
- answer – I am the Lords commander
- time is now
- response – fear the Lord and worship
- open to direction from God

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

So What?

I. God Has a Design and Desire for Us

- ▣ things can look aligned in the physical
- ▣ we can be clear on what God promised
- ▣ the process and how is important
- ▣ determine to do things His way
 - * will often look a little foolish to the worlds way of thinking, and be somewhat counter cultural**

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

2. Take Great Care With Covenant

“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” Col 2:11-14

Joshua 5 – Participating on God's Terms

3. Participate

- ▣ in remembering, renewing and realigning
- ▣ in simple obedience and faith steps
- ▣ trusting when you don't see clearly

4. Know Who the Battle Belongs to

- ▣ allow God to deliver
- ▣ fear and worship the Almighty