

JOSHUA: *presence. courage. action.*

Holy Ground - Joshua 5:13-15

March 5, 2017

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." - **Joshua 5:15**

I. HOLY PRESENCE

- God is never in a hurry. His purposes are accomplished without haste (Isa. 28:16).
- As Israel's military commander and leader, Joshua is looking over Jericho (vs. 13; Josh 1:5).
- The angel of the Lord is neither for nor against Israel; he is for God, and for the accomplishing of his will (Dan. 9:20-23; Num. 22:23, 31; 1 Chron. 21:16; Rev. 19:10).
- This man that confronts Joshua may in fact be a Christophany [an appearance of the second Person of the Trinity prior to the Incarnation] (Gen. 16:13; Gen. 18; Gen. 32:24; Judges 6:11-24; 1 Cor. 10:4).
- Joshua is Israel's leader, but he serves a greater Captain (vs. 14).
- God is present in the camp of Israel; the battle is his (Ex. 14:14; Zech. 4:6).
- Joshua, like Moses before him, is standing on holy ground (Ex. 3:5).

II. TIME TO WORSHIP

- Generally speaking, the things that are pressing to us are not nearly so pressing to the Lord (Matt. 6:25-34; Luke 10:38-42).
- God is a sovereign Lord; we are never in charge (Job 26:14; Ps. 2; Prov. 21:1; Matt. 5:36).

KNOW: Even when we think we are in charge of the affairs of our lives, we must come to the realization that God is sovereign, and we are to be submissive. He leads, we follow.

DO: Stop living like you control events. Start living like God is God.

Recommended Reading:

Experiencing God, by Henry Blackaby (LifePoint Library #248.4 BLA)

The Invisible Hand, by R.C. Sproul

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Joshua chapter 5:13-15.

1. Why do you think Joshua was "by Jericho"?
2. The man Joshua encounters is standing with a sword in his hand. What does that appear to be symbolizing?
3. Who is the man, do you think? Joshua worships him; is that typical behavior? And the man seems to accept the worship.
4. What is the purpose for this encounter, do you think?
5. In what ways do we attempt to control the events in our own lives in un-biblical ways?
6. Talk about some ways that we can learn to give up control of our lives to God.