

Joshua

Part 6 – Round and Round

Joshua 6

God has a plan (v.1-16, 20-21)

- Key Component: your obedience
 - It doesn't always make sense and it may look silly (not great military strategy) – do you disobey, delay, or obey?
 - But His plan is better because it's HIS plan
 - Your obedience does not impact His success, but it will impact your participation in His success
- Key Component: His power
 - The walls went down flat, as God said they would- the power was from above, not from any horizontal force
 - Some face unscalable and unassailable walls with unequipped people – and God will show His power
 - 1 Peter 4.10-11 – the giver of grace gets the glory

God's plan is right (v.17-19)

- Three bad responses:
 - Christian jihad – instead of localized in geography and history
 - There may be times when we have to use force in order to fulfill the command to love neighbor, but these kinds of stories are not our justification for them
 - Defending God – as if this were Joshua's remembrance instead of the Lord's command
 - If I don't like what god is doing (or allowing), God is not the problem
 - Psalm 18.30, Romans 11.33-36
 - Fair Play – defining and judging those perfect plans by human understanding of fairness
 - These were NOT nice people (Deut. 18.9-12) – Molech
 - Do we really want fair when it comes to God? NO
 - The only people this is unfair to is anyone who doesn't get what they deserve
 - If we got what we deserved, Jericho would be a cake walk

Salvation is included (v.22-25)

- God's revelation led to her salvation (cf. 2.11)
 - He would not and will not go back on His Word
- He doesn't withhold judgment – He rescues from it
 - Cross – Gospel 2 Corinthians 5.21

Questions for Discussion

1. When was a time you really felt used by God? What happened? How were you used? What role did obedience play in being used?
2. In what area of your life do you need power to come from above and destroy barriers? How are you praying about that? Whom have you told?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12.1-11. What spiritual gifts can you identify? What do you think yours is / are? What would your spouse say yours is / are? How is that gift being used so that the people around you receive good and God receives glory?
4. Are there scenarios in which you feel a need to “defend God?” Why in those scenarios do you have that impulse? How do the two scriptures (Psalm 18.30 and Romans 11.33-36) speak to you?
5. Reread 2 Corinthians 5.17-21. How are we saved from God’s judgment? Who, in your life, needs the “ministry of reconciliation?”