

Friday, May 25, 2018

They

Joshua 6-7

"Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions."
Joshua 7:11

After a dramatic victory over Jericho, which was a very great city, the Israelites find themselves routed by Ai, which was a lesser opponent. Joshua seeks the LORD as to why. What happened that the LORD was no longer with them? God tells Joshua that He will not be with Israel because they have sinned (7:12). They have brought into their camp some of the devoted things of Jericho. With the sin in their camp, they will not be able to stand against their enemies. They must purge the sin by ridding the camp of that which has been plundered. They go through the process that allows God to reveal the man who had done this thing. It was Achan. When it was uncovered what he had done, he, his family, and all that he had was destroyed. I wonder what Achan felt, as the process went on and it came closer to the time his sin would be uncovered? He thought it was a private sin, but it was not. No sin is. I must learn and grasp this. One of the reasons that the people of God today are ineffective against the enemy is because we tolerate sin in our camp. I must remember that my sin impacts the whole. Even the sin that I think I have hidden is laid bare before God and it hurts not only me, but my family, my church, and the Church at large.

Dear LORD, forgive me, please, for my secret sins. Help me keep my tent pure. Amen.

Saturday, May 26, 2018

Inquire

Joshua 8-9

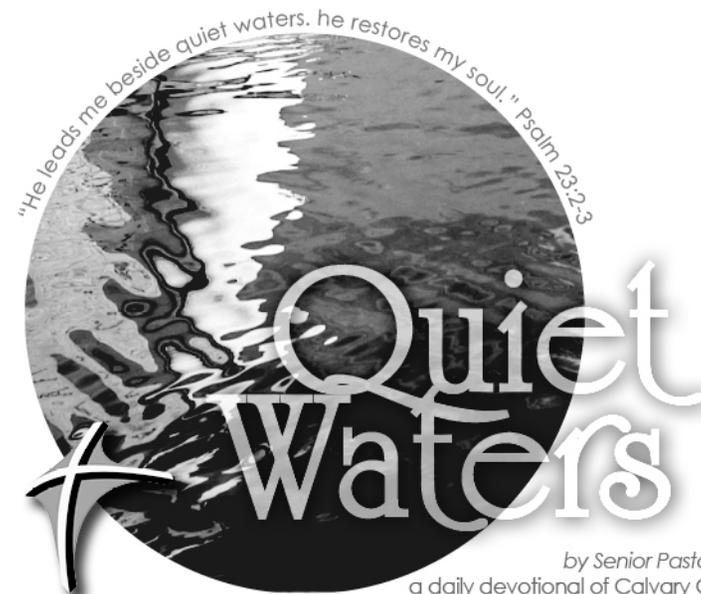
The men of Israel sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the LORD.

Joshua 9:14

While reading the accounts of the complete cleansing of Jericho and Ai, I am struck with the totality of the conquest. Every man, woman, and child was to be put to death. I must remember that it is not because they were Israel's enemies; it was because they had sinned against God. Their sin was egregious and in total disregard to God. Just as Achan—with his family—had to be punished for his sin, so did the people of Canaan. Their sin had earned the wrath of God—as all sin does. Judgement came for their sin, as it must for all sin. God had revealed Himself and given opportunity for repentance. He had saved Rahab when she turned to Him. The people of Gibeon were clearly told of God and His plan (9:24) and they devised a scheme to deceive Israel. The plan worked and their lives were spared. It is interesting to me that instead of inquiring of the LORD, the leaders of Israel chose to eat stale and moldy food. It is so easy to be the reader and think of what should have occurred. Clearly, I can see the deceit and the absolute and simple solution of turning to inquire of the LORD. What in the world was Joshua thinking? Really, Joshua? Are you not getting this? But then I must pause and consider the times that I have chosen moldy food over time inquiring of the LORD, instead making decisions based on my best understanding of circumstances. How many times has that left me with consequences that are less than desirable?

Dear Lord, remind me, please, to inquire of You in all of my situations. Keep me so close to You that the first thought I have is to ask You which way I should go. Amen.

May 21 - 26, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, May 21, 2018

Life

Deuteronomy 32-33

“They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

Deuteronomy 32:47

I'm not sure any man understood the power of God's words more than Moses. He had such a special relationship with the Father. He knew God in a way that was very special. He had unrestricted access into the immediate presence of God! In many ways, Moses was given the honor of knowing so much about the heart of God. I consider all the conversations that God and Moses had that are not recorded. I am sure that in the midst of all these conversations, Moses came to realize that the words of God were life-giving to him—so much so that they became life to him. He wanted those he loved and led to understand this as well. The words of God are not idle. I think about that sentence. How could I even begin to think that God would speak idle words? Which words of God do I think could not have a purpose? It is when I begin to remember that the Word of God is living and active that I get swept away with considering that these words are not just helpful or encouraging, they are my life. It is in the Word of God that I find all I need to sustain my life with Him.

Dear God, thank You for Your Word! How I love Your Word. Forgive me for the times that I have treated Your words as idle and without meaning. Forgive me for the times that I have neglected them. Forgive me for the times that I have tried to find life in other places. Pour out on me the power of the life that comes from Your words. Amen.

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Meditate

Deuteronomy 34– Joshua 1

“Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”

Joshua 1:8

Joshua is stepping into some big shoes. But God is with him, just as He was with Moses (1:5) and God has filled him with the spirit of wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9). So Joshua is ready for this call on his life. But it is a big call. Joshua will be successful—if. Again, it all comes down to the Word of the LORD. He can be strong and courageous because he can be certain he will be successful—if he meditates on the Law day and night, careful to do all that is written in it. Meditation requires much more than a casual read. It involves hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and then meditating. God is telling Joshua to spend time with Him in intimacy by spending time with His words. By meditating on the words, Joshua would be allowing the words to read him. This would allow him to know the Word of the LORD and, of course, it is much easier to follow the words of the LORD when you know what they are! I long to be successful in the mission I have received from the Lord. I know that He is with me (Matthew 28:20) and I know that He has given me His Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14). So now, I need to be careful. I need to spend time with Him, meditating on His Word and then doing what it says.

Dear LORD, how I long to be successful in what You have called me to do for You. I long to live within the power of Your presence and the Spirit living within me. Help me be very careful to do all that You tell me as I meditate on Your Word day and night. Amen.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Melting

Joshua 2-3

They said to Joshua, “The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

Joshua 2:24

There is a dramatic difference between the reports of these spies and the spies that went into the land the first time (Numbers 13:31). The miraculous signs that God did in rescuing His people from Egypt should have been enough for them to know that He would give them victory, but they were afraid of the opposition. It is interesting that one of the miracles that should have caused them to be brave is actually one of the miracles that has caused the enemy to be filled with fear. The crossing of the Red Sea was a pretty big miracle! It is causing people to melt in fear of the God that is with the Israelites. The first group of spies (with two exceptions) did not understand this, as they looked at the *possible* land. But this second group see the *promised* land and there is the difference! One saw the promise of God as revealed in the fear of the enemy, the other saw the possibility of God but was frozen in fear of the obstacles. I must remember that the enemy knows and fears God who is with me (James 2:19). He sees the miracles that God has already done in my life as He has given me victory over the sin in my life. He is melting in fear over the promises God has given me and His Church. I must move in the absolute assurance of victory over the enemies that would war against my soul—and the advancement of the Kingdom of God!

Dear God, help me remember that my enemy is melting in fear because of You. Amen.

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Worship

Joshua 4-5

He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”

Joshua 4:24

Worship involves remembering. It must. God reveals Himself and I worship as I remember the ways in which He has! As God leads His people into the land He has prepared and will secure for them, He instructs them to set up a remembrance, a place to come back and remember His greatness and His power. He stopped the Jordan River in flood season so that hundreds of thousands of people could cross. He is fulfilling the promise. He is God. He is the one true God. There is no other. People melt in fear at the mention of His name. Rivers stop. Seas part. Stones give water. Skies bring bread. Bushes burn. Mountains tremble. This all happens for two reasons, this verse tells us: so that people can know that God is powerful and so that those who know His power may revere His name—all that He is and all that He requires. I must place things in my life that will help me remember the power of God as it has been revealed in my life. I must worship from and in that memory and the assurance that God is all He says He is. Amazing God!

O Lord, help me remember You and all that You have done. Let the earth know that You are all powerful. Let me fear You in total submission and reverence. Amen.