

Possess, Plunder and Prosper part 2

Opening Text: Joshua 5:13-15

From our text today, I would like to extract 3 questions to consider when you stand before your Jericho's – before those seemingly unsurpassable obstacles, those imposing ramparts that challenge the very promises of God:

1. What do you see?
2. What does God say?
3. Where do you stand?

1. What do you see?

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

- What do you see?
 - a) Do you see Jericho, the impenetrable walls, the impressive 21meter-high towers, do you see an unconquerable army inside?...
 - b) Or do you see the Lord?

*... when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, **a Man stood opposite him** with His sword drawn in His hand.*

The sight of those walls would have been intimidating but God wanted Joshua to see Him and not the walls.

- What do you see?

Hebrews 12: 2 - *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...*

Psalms 16:8 - *I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.*

In this encounter, God is working on Joshua's vision. This was the vision he was to carry into every battle: The Lord with a sword drawn, the Lord as a warrior ready to fight his battles!

Isaiah 42:13 - *The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies.*

- What do you see?

This is really a matter of focus. In the battles of life let us focus on a Jesus who comes to fight for us. What do you focus upon: the greatness of the problem or the greatness of Jesus?

*“when Joshua was by Jericho, that he **lifted his eyes** and looked, and behold, a Man”*

Isaiah 6:1 - *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.*

That is the vision we need to carry into our battles: The Lord high and lifted up!

- What do you see?

Jeremiah 1: 11-12 - *¹¹ Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, **what do you see?**” And I said, “I see a branch of an almond tree.” ¹² Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.”*

We need to carry the vision of a God faithful to His promises and ready to perform His word.

2. What does God say?

Joshua 5:14 - *¹⁴ So **He said**, “No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “**What does my Lord say** to His servant?”*

What does God have to say about your battle, about your sickness, about your provision? What He says is what counts. And what God says always works: He told them to shout and that the walls of Jericho would come down. It was unconventional ... but it worked.

V.13b - ... *“are you for us or for our adversaries?”*

That is a wonderful truth to take into every battle: God says that He is for us!

- He is for us and...
- He is in charge!

“as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come”.

Commander: in charge. Joshua didn't have to be in charge, God was! Joshua didn't have to make it happen in his own ability; God was going to make it happen. God says that He is in control. Jesus is Lord!

We often want to be in control. Most of the time, the reality is that we are no match for life's circumstances. In fact, there is not a lot we can control!

In the life's battles let us surrender to Him. Let us allow Him to be in charge. He is the Commander of the army of the Lord. He is Lord!

Much anxiety comes from trying to be in control. Let us cast our cares upon Him and allow Him to fight those battles for us.

What does God say? He says that He is for us and that He is Lord!

Let us carry what He says, His word, into our battles.

3. Where do you stand?

Joshua 1:15 - ¹⁵ *Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place **where you stand** is holy." And Joshua did so.*

- What do you see? – how's your vision and where is your focus?
- What has God said? – His word will always work
- Lastly, where do you stand?

Before stepping into the battle, Joshua had to stand in the presence of God. Our eagerness to succeed can never be at the exclusion of an encounter with Him.

In fact, it is in the place of the encounter that we receive the power to succeed, the *rhema* word for the situation and the vision for what He has for us.

Joshua was ready to move forward, eager to succeed, driven to achieve. He probably had his armour on, his shoes on but God said, 'shoes off! First: Holy ground, first your relationship with God ... then all these other things will be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

To receive the *promise*, we need to learn to stand in the *presence*. We need to value '*holy ground*', holy things – to prioritise God and our relationship with Him.

Our feet need holy ground, our mind needs holy strategies, we need a holy focus!

Where do you stand? Be sure to stand in the presence of God. The presence of God is the epicentre of every victory.

Conclusion

3 questions to carry into every battle:

- a) What do I see?
- b) What has God said about this?
- c) Where do I stand?