

## STAY CLOSE #5

Joshua 5:13-15; Exodus 23:20-23

02/06/2022

Sunday a.m.

### SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

### SLIDE 2 – STAY CLOSE – PROMISE & PRESENCE – 2022

- Not a fearful “stay close” THINK: invitation to **dwelling** (the shadow of Most High)
  - Covenant = PROMISE – “**this is how things will always be between us**”
  - Upheld by the good will, good name, & power of the greater party
- God’s PROMISES (Who He is, what He does;) & PRESENCE (never leave you)

### SLIDE 3 – STEP BY STEP: INTO THE LAND

- It’s time! Crossing the Jordan – physical/literal obstacle to enter the Land
  - The 12-stone Monument/altar – remember what God has done
- Israel renews COVENANT – circumcision (cutting away/laying aside)
  - We are Your people; You are our God – Hearts/minds/lives vs. externals
  - Time to heal – celebrate the Passover (freedom meal) – none in desert
  - Begin eating off the Land – no more manna from heaven
- Waiting for the “OK/Go ahead” to go to Jericho – 1<sup>st</sup> target in the Land
- Removing the giants from the Land (-ites – Nephilim, Rephaim, Anakim)

### SLIDE 4 – FOR or FROM VICTORY?

- God’s promise: He will go WITH & BEFORE us – will drive them ALL out
  - No matter what they face, God will give them the victory

### SLIDE 5 – FOR vs. FROM VICTORY – COMPARISONS

- Not fighting FOR victory – (UNCERTAINTY, as if it is in doubt)
- Fighting FROM victory – (PEACE – it is already decided)
  - This seemingly small shift in perspective changes everything

### SLIDES 6-9 – JOSHUA 5:13-15

### SLIDE 10 – THE ANGEL OF THE LORD (THEOPHANY?: Pre-Incarnation Christ)

- Joshua – outside of Jericho – encounters a man with a drawn sword
  - Asks: “Are you for US or for our ENEMIES?”
  - Angel: “NEITHER. I’m here as the commander of the army of the Lord”
  - Joshua: falls facedown before angel out of reverence: “Got a message?”
  - Angel: “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are is HOLY”
    - Reminiscent of Moses & the burning bush – I Am

### SLIDES 11-13 – EXODUS 23:20-23 - REFERENCE

### SLIDE 14 – STAY CLOSE: THE ANGEL

- God’s promise (covenant) & presence – years before,
- God’s promise to be WITH/GO BEFORE Israel pre-wandering 40 years
  - “I’m sending My angel ahead of you: to guard you, bring you along

- Pay attention/obey him – don't rebel; he won't forgive; – he's here in My Name
  - If you follow & obey, I will fight against your enemies – all the -ites.
- Angel will go ahead, bring you into the Land, fight enemies, WIPE THEM OUT
  - Blessing & victory ONLY come by following & obeying →
- Establishing/building reliance on God's leadership into fabric of Israel

#### **SLIDE 15 – JESUS: SAVIOR & LORD**

- What are some implications for God's people (For us)?
- Savior – salvation from sin; deliverance from bondage; rescue from pit
- Lord – master; walk in His ways; obedience/following Him; humility/submission
- Joshua: Are you for us/for our enemies?
  - ANGEL: NEITHER – Commander of Lord's army

#### **SLIDE 16 – EMBRACE CHRIST**

HOW do I see Christ? WHO is He? WHAT is His role?

- Jesus isn't here to HELP me; He is here to be IN CHARGE of me
- Jesus isn't here to fulfill my agenda; I am on His agenda
- I am invited to FOLLOW Him – LORD & SAVIOR – in His *Missio Dei*
- Salvation begins with MY surrender to HIM
  - Lordship belongs to Jesus – not getting Him to "help" me on my way
  - Very freeing to relinquish Lordship to Christ
- There are NO 2<sup>nd</sup> hand experiences w/Christ – only 1<sup>st</sup> hand, 1<sup>st</sup> person
  - Every one of us needs our own encounter w/Christ

#### **SLIDE 17 – EMBRACE REPENTANCE**

- KEEP IN MIND – Israel has to regularly repent & realign w/God's purposes
- WHAT ABOUT US? What about the GIANTS in our own lives?
  - God's purpose: Grow in Him, identify, conquer, & remove GIANTS
  - AKA – Sin patterns, generational sins/bondage, destructive habits, mental/emotional/spiritual blockages →
  - **REPENTANCE** – change of heart/mind/action = align w/God's plans
    - repentance is ALWAYS enriching to the one repenting
    - we come away w/blessing – realigning w/Christ & His ways

#### **SLIDE 18 – PSALM 139:23,24 - PRAYER**

- Start/end the day with invitation to HS to search heart

#### **SLIDE 19 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?**

- Stay close to Jesus
- Be flexible/open to God-directed change
- Be prepared – when God says "Get ready"
- Be strong & very courageous – God is WITH us
- Be careful to obey all we know to obey

**SLIDE 20 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27**

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace.” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”*