

Scripture Reading: Joshua 5:13-15

Sermon Title: Let Me be Me

Let Me be Me

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

¹⁴“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

¹⁵The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:13-15

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a **man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.** Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

¹⁴“Neither,” he replied, **“but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”**

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush.... When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God

Exodus 3:2, 4-6

The Angel of The Lord is the pre-incarnate Jesus.

God is on God’s side.

Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

¹⁴**“Neither.”**

God’s side is holy.

The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for **the place where you are standing is holy.**”

“We tend to have mixed feelings about the holy. There is a sense in which we are at the same time attracted to it and repulsed by it. Something draws us toward it, while at the same time we want to run away from it. We can’t seem to decide which way we want it. Part of us yearns for the holy, while part of us despises it. We can’t live with it, and we can’t live without it.”

R.C. Sproul. The Holiness of God

Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:5-7

God fights for His people.

God fights for His people in the battles they have with themselves.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 7:21-25

God fights for His people in the battles they have with others.

Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Joshua 5:1

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands
Joshua 6:1

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.²⁰ On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:19-21

God going before His people is His people’s greatest source of confidence.

Jesus is the Holy One of Israel who will fight for His people.

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” And Joshua did so.

Yielding to God involves hearing & doing the word of God.

We learn to yield in prayer, with practice, & through pain.

In Prayer

He says, “**Be still, and know** that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”
Psalm 46:10

With Practice

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

Through Pain

I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.
Genesis 41:16

Don’t go searching for pain but when painful moments find you, look for God in them—look to God in them—learn from them.

Let God be God—yield.