

Joshua 11  
Jason Huffman  
Title: Be Ready and Prepared  
10/1/23

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Can you think of times in your life or someone else's you or they were not prepared? How did it feel?
2. What is the most challenging thing about the simple process of trusting and obeying the Lord?
3. What ways do you learn spiritually?
4. Why do you think the enemy's weapons might be tempting for Joshua or for us?
5. What have you learned or been reminded about God?

### **Teaching Notes:**

Last week the Jews won a huge victory as they honored their covenant relationship with the Gibeonites.

We talked about the responsibilities and rewards when we take the high road in our relationships.

This week, we finish the major battles of Joshua, and although this battle is one of the least known, it is probably the biggest.

#### **We may often remember our first challenges...**

...but the later ones can sometimes be bigger...

AND it was the earlier, smaller ones that prepared us...

...for the bigger later challenges.

When you have a baby, you think it is such a big challenge, but...

When they're teenagers, you wish you could end an argument by just putting them in their crib and letting them cry it out

When you have a first job, you think it is such a big challenge.

Then later you move into leadership and you remember how easy it was to just clock in and out every day.

The Jews thought Jericho or the five kings battle was a challenge.

...Now there is Hazor...one of the largest excavations 200 acres

They probably wish they could march and **see the walls fall**.  
Or maybe they wish **hailstones** would fall on their enemies.

This is not going to be like those battles, but they are ready.  
**But...they are prepared for this battle because...**

**...of all the previous battles.**

**Big Idea: Every level prepares us to level up.**

**Title: Be Ready and Prepared**

11:1 And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard *these things*, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, **2** and to the kings who *were* from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, **3** to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. **4** So they went out, they and all their armies with them, *as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude*, with very many horses and chariots. **5** And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

This is quite a hoard!

The army is described as “sands on the seashore”...

**...And they have horses and chariots.**

**This is a much bigger battle...**

**...But...Nothing is “big” to the Lord.**

Nothing pushes God to His limits because He has no limits!

**It may push you to the limit, but that will just help you grow.**

But remember this...

**“The process doesn’t change because the problem is bigger”**

**1. Trust the process.**

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

OR- How do you divide 25 into 43,700? One step at a time. -1748

“Long division is difficult because it requires multiple steps. If the student is shaky at any stage in the process, frustration is followed closely by failure. First, the student needs to have an understanding of estimation. Second, division shouldn't begin until the student is solid on multiplication facts.”

**For Joshua: the process from the beginning has been:**

- Know God’s will. What does the Lord want?
- Trust God’s word. What does the Lord say?

- Obey God's way. What does the Lord want us to do?

## 2. Learn at every level.

Wherever you are, keep learning.  
Don't get settled or satisfied.  
Don't stop learning at any level.

### **Being complacent is when trouble sneaks in.**

...David on the rooftop when he should have been in battle.

Don't wait for a certain season or situation...learn at every level.

Where we are today puts us where God wants us tomorrow.

### **If you have not learned today's lesson...**

**...how you will be ready to face tomorrow's challenges?**

**6 But the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."**

### **So this is another part of the process...not being afraid.**

#### **The Lord says it to Joshua again in the face of this hoard...**

...Because fear keeps us from action.

But remember, God doesn't say don't fear because it is not scary.

It is NOT like when you tell your child don't be afraid of the boogie man under the bed because there isn't a boogie man.

#### **God says do not fear even though it is scary and dangerous.**

These people want to kill them all.

#### **"Don't fear" doesn't mean it isn't scary.**

Life is full of scary or hard or painful things.

As believers, we don't just stick our head in the sand and pretend.

We acknowledge the problem, own the pain, or disappointment.

...And then we move forward anyway by faith in obedience.

#### **In Acts 20, Paul says...**

...the trouble coming his way doesn't move him

We don't pretend, but we don't get overwhelmed or freeze in fear.

### **If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Well...a lot of things actually!

...But nothing that really matters, because God is greater...

...than anything that comes against you, so don't fear.

**Notice God says, hamstring the horses, burn the chariots.**

### **3. Don't use the enemy's weapons.**

These are strong and effective weapons but not God's way.

One stipulations for future kings from Deuteronomy was not to multiply horses.

Deuteronomy 17:16

**But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'**

Egypt is a type for the world.

**Isaiah in 31:1 says, Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD!**

What does this mean for us? Don't by a horse or chariot?

**Don't fight your battles the way the world does.**

### **What is the way of the world?**

...It is the way of living outside of the kingdom of God.

**Don't fight your battles outside of God's will, word, or way.**

This doesn't mean don't see a counselor or Dr. or fin. planner.

This doesn't mean don't read a book or learn from non-believers.

**It means that the methods that you learn or the practices that you employ or the way you fight should align with God's will, God's word, and God's way.**

Do you use greed to grow your business?

Do you manipulate people with guilt to get your way?

Do you try to help your relationship with immortality or lying?

Do you use pride to appeal to people and grow your ministry?

If Jesus is our king...

...we should live according to His kingdom wherever we are.

...so we don't use horses and chariots, we trust in Him.

7 So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. 8 And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining.

A relationship with God is not an either or issue.  
It is not either I work or God works.  
It is not either I do it all or He does it all.

We work, we serve, we choose, we show up.  
God gives the direction, brings success, and delivers the enemies

**He works in us both to will and to do, but we must do.**  
The battle isn't going to fight by itself.  
The sword must be picked up and swung.

In this next section of the battle...notice Joshua's obedience.

#### **4. Obedience is an action.**

Obedience is not a state of mind, it is state of movement.

Sometimes people think a life of faith is mental or spiritual...  
...But it is also practical.

We think what matters most is what we believe not what we do.  
**But it is our actions that demonstrate our true faith.**

9 So Joshua did to them as the Lord had told him: he hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

12 So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded.

15 As the Lord had commanded Moses His servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

We can't think we will have total victory if we leave things undone.  
If we leave out a step, if we forget part of the process...  
...we will not solve the problem, we will rarely find victory.

18 Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

This was probably 7 years.  
Your fight in this world is going to be ongoing.

**19** There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All *the others* they took in battle. **20** For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, *and* that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Their hearts were against the Lord and God **strengthened** them.  
They had decided their direction, and God set it.

They would not receive mercy; they were violent and wicked...  
...and would be destroyed.

**22** None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

**23** So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.

Even the giants of Anakim were destroyed.

## **5. Rest follows victory.**

Hebrews 4:**8** For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. **9** There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. **10** For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His. **11** Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

**If you want God's rest follow the process.**

Trust and obey God's will, God's word, and God's way.