

THE Story

THE BATTLE BEGINS (PART 2) : SCOTT LANIGAN

March 20-21, 2021

"YOU DO NOT SIN ALONE"

The community of Israel experiences wins and losses in taking the land, as they practice hearing and obeying, while seeing the blessings and curses in action.

TEXT

"The Battle Begins" *The Story*, pages 94-99 (Joshua 7-11)

TALK ABOUT IT

1. In today's world, what does it look like to be obedient or disobedient?
2. Re-read the first two paragraphs of page 94 (Joshua 7 & 8). Why do fear and pride continue to haunt the Israelites? How can this happen to us?
3. As you consider the "new territory" in front of you, how is God preparing you to take it?

LOOK TO THE WORD

So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land. (Joshua 6:27)

- Why is it important to know when God is "with" someone and when He is "not with" them?
- In the Bible, what are the consequences of God being *with* or *not with* someone?

So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai... At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water. (Joshua 7:4-5)

- Why was Israel routed by the men of Ai?



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- What is the significance of using the same words to describe Israel that were used to describe the people of Jericho: “the people melted in fear and became like water”?

I will give you every place where you set your foot as I promised Moses. (Joshua 1:3)
God doesn't need your power. He needs your willingness.

- What do you learn about God's generosity as He gives the people the land?
- What do you learn about God's power as He takes hold of the land for the people?

Joshua read all the words of the law--the blessings and the curses--just as it is written in the Book of the Law. (Joshua 8:34)

- The people of Israel needed constant reminders of the promises of God and the blessings and curses that come along with. What are the blessings and what are the curses they hear?

The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us." (Joshua 10:6)

- The Israelites create a partnership with the Gibeonites as they enter the land. Why did Israel decide not to overtake the Gibeonites?
- What are the consequences of this partnership?

LOOK INWARD

Israel was proud of their victories and how they were entering the Promised Land. But pride leads to prayerlessness.

- Why does pride lead to prayerlessness? What are some examples of this being true?
- Why should we “never stop praying”?

It wasn't the Canaanites that were the downfall of Israel, but Israel themselves.

- How can we be “our own worst enemy”?



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Winston Churchill captures the resolve of the Israelites: "Never, never, never, never give in."

- What reason do we have to 'never give in'?

"Courage is not the absence of fear, it's moving forward in face of your fear. "

- Where are you currently demonstrating courage? In your life, what events/circumstances require your courage?

"You don't have to understand completely to obey immediately." – Craig Groeschel

- What questions do you still have for God? Where are you still wanting to understand more?
- Does your understanding hinder your obedience? Why?

"What God promises, God provides": Suggested Practice

Take some time this week and write down 2 or 3 verses that are full of God's promises to you. Recite them daily and choose daily His promises.

LOOK OUTWARD

We sin and we succeed together. This is the beauty and the mystery of the Church.

- How have you seen your sin impact others around you?
- How have you seen your successes others around you?

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24)

- Read Matthew 7:24-29. Jesus uses this parable as a way to declare God's power and foundation for someone's life. How does the Gospel, as a foundation for your life, display faith, hope and love to others as they experience storms?

God has empower you and gone ahead of you to take the territory He has called you to take.

- This week, how can you encourage someone to step into the Promised Land and take the territory you know God has given them?



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NEXT WEEK'S READING

- March 27/28, 2021 – The Battle Begins (Pages 99-102)

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for the work God did through Alpha at Freedom's Door
- Praise God for the success of the Next Gen retreat 'Wired' last weekend
- Pray that God would work in our Trinity Kids families as they prepare to celebrate Easter
- Pray for those taking the journey of Lent; that they would experience & celebrate Easter like never before
- Pray for the preparations being made for Easter as we have an opportunity to meet with a few outdoors and share the Good News of His resurrection
- Pray for hosts for our Trinity Church Anywhere gatherings; that they would have a heart for people, open up space, start the video and talk about it
- Pray that people would find connection and encouragement as we enter the spring season.
- Pray that God would continue to do the work of peace and hope through the use of 1905 Springfield and their partnership with Interior Health's clinic

RESOURCES

Podcast

As we journey together through *The Story*, make sure to catch the weekly podcast every Wednesday as we took a significant look at key issues in the text, questions you've submitting or topics we had to overlook because of time. Send questions to podcast@trinitykelowna.ca

