



MONDAY 21 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 5:1 & 2 Peter 3:10-13

Plug In...

The present inhabitants of the Promised Land have their hearts melt with fear. A key line used throughout Joshua (see 2:8-9, 11, 24).

Chew It Over...

Lots of ethical questions begin to be asked of Israel's occupation of this land. Australia holds to *Just War Theory* as the criteria to go to war in another land and so we often read that theory back into Scripture and conclude what we read is not just. However, Scripture asks the more important question, is this 'just' from *God's* perspective?

How would you answer that question given the story so far? Consider: How does God describe the people of the land? (See [Genesis 15:16](#).) What exactly do the Canaanites engage in? (See [Leviticus 18:23-40](#).)

When your heart begins to melt with fear before the living God of heaven and earth, there are two responses. The land will spew you out ([Deuteronomy 9:4-5](#)) or you can quickly align yourself with God (e.g. Rahab – [Joshua 2:8-13](#)).

Do you live with this perspective in view? Does this cause you to intercede relentlessly and passionately for people. Do you ask for those who feel secure around you – even friends and family – to have their hearts melt, to break (*cf.* [Matthew 21:44](#))?

Prayer Suggestion

Call on the Lord's Day to come quickly. Yet relentlessly intercede for specific people that need to be broken/melted before it is too late.



TUESDAY 22 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 5:2-12

Plug In...

The whole crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land is told not from a military point of view, but from the angle of worship. Even at the first battle, Jericho, we'll see the whole strategy is worship. Crossing the Jordan has the LORD at the centre (The Ark of the Covenant). The arrival in the Promised Land culminates in participating in the covenant worship rituals: circumcision and Passover.

Chew It Over...

How does your strategy for life, ministry, relationships bubble up from *worship*?

Look at the rituals you are involved in, the patterns, your habits, your regular activities – they will display what is at the centre of your worship.

Prayer Suggestion

Evoke God to guide you by His Spirit to show what risks becoming the object of your worship. Ask the Lord to impress upon you what habits and patterns you need to substitute for ones that say God is *Lord* of me.



WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 5:13-15

Plug In...

The statement, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy,” clinches that we are seeing a manifestation of Divinity.

This mysterious figure shows that Joshua got the question wrong. Joshua needs to ask of himself, “Am I for the LORD?”.

Chew It Over...

So much of our activity in following Jesus can easily become ‘may God bless *my* plans’. Our life, even as Christians, is still about me, me, me. We need to ask, what is God’s plan, for that is what I will do.

The very things we ask for in prayer will tell us straight what’s going on for us.

J.I. Packer suggests that if we do some work to tie all our prayer requests to God’s character, His plans, Scripture verses/ promises it will expose our disordered desires and also shape us to be about God more than us. He suggests:

- Appeal to a specific name of God: the name reveals an aspect of God, explaining who He is and what He is about.
- Base the request in a doctrine from Scripture.
- Where possible petition and mention to God the promises He’s made and said He’ll back.

- Share with God the good result you hope and trust He will bring from answering your prayer.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray like this now. Finish in Jesus' name knowing that God will and wants to hear you talk like this because of Jesus' mediation.



THURSDAY 24 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 6:1-25 & Ephesians 6:10-20

Plug In...

This whole story starts with, “Now Jericho had shut their gates”. This is a big deal in that day and age. No satellites to see what’s happening inside, no drones to fly overhead and drop bombs. From a military point of view, the Israelites could not penetrate Jericho.

The rest of the story underscores that God enacts the entire victory for Israel (i.e. The Ark of the Covenant is central and leads the way). All Israel have to do is trust.

Chew It Over...

Much of what Israel is called to do seems counter-intuitive to get the job done. In this story the bulk of action on behalf of the Israelites could be called *worship*. The big shout they give at the end of the seventh day’s procession is the same shout they gave in formal worship contexts (e.g. [Psalm 66:1](#); [95:1-2](#); [100:1](#)).

While it would not be right to conclude that we must become totally passive and never do anything pragmatic, it is worth identifying if we have a calendar of appointments, a list of to-do tasks, that are devoid of worship activities. How much power is not taken up simply because we set out to do things without prayer, without meditation on God’s Word where we enjoy His presence? How is our godliness drained because we don’t drink deeply of the gospel daily?

Reflect on all these worship activities Paul urges us to take up to be successful followers of the Lord Jesus – [Ephesians 6:10-20](#).

Decide on what activities you can start doing to setup your day to take up this powerful armour.

Decide how you can begin implementing much more prayer throughout your day whereby you ask for God's presence to go before you before launching into them.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray – even about deciding to pray more. Pray that we will learn, know, and display through practice that the greater contribution to any situation is God's Spirit.



FRIDAY 25 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 6:20-27 & Acts 2:14-41**Plug In...**

Towards the end of this narrative, the picture oscillates between two images. First, people cursed (v. 21), then people redeemed (vv. 22-23), then people cursed (v.24), then again the people redeemed (v. 25), then the people cursed (v.26).

Chew It Over...

Just like Jericho became the example of what was going to happen to all of Canaan, so the judgement of the Lord Jesus is an example of what will happen to all people. The plucking of Rahab from the current destruction is an example of those who even in the final moments will be saved should they throw themselves on God.

Remember Peter on the day of Pentecost announcing that although the day of judgement had started, there are people currently being plucked from the fire. Peter pleaded with those around him, and warned them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation". ([Acts 2:40](#))

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God to *cut to the heart* those that hear you share about Jesus. Plead with God that you'll become a person that pleads with people now as the walls of this world come down.



The Lakes

WEEKEND 26-27 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Promise & Courage

Read: Joshua 6:25 & Romans II

Plug In...

"And Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with all her family...*and she lives among the Israelites to this day.*"

This line doesn't shy away from the characterisation of Rahab, it continues to call out her sin. But the extra clause (italicised) highlights the mercy of God to Rahab.

Chew It Over...

Even within Israel of the Old Testament, commitment to God overrides any ethnic issue. It may surprise some, but Paul shows that the promises of God are for those that are true Israel, not those who are Israel by birth.

If you can, spend time taking in Romans 11 (even chapters 9-11). Paul's point comes in 11:30-32 – the whole point of history, even the distinction of Jew-Gentile, is that everyone (Gentiles and ethnic Israel), are proven to be disobedient so that God's mercy to both *shines* through.

Prayer Suggestion

Spend time getting your heart appreciating the sheer mercy you've been showed so that it wells up in words of gratitude and praise to God. With Paul:

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,

and his paths beyond tracing out!

'Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counsellor?'

'Who has ever given to God,

that God should repay them?'

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory for ever! Amen.

(Romans 11:33-36).