

Message: “JOSHUA: WHOSE SIDE?” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 1/30/22

Description: After the circumcision of all of the males in Joshua 5:1-12, before Israel’s conquest of Jericho, there was one more consecrating step for Joshua: a personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. Joshua began the conversation by asking who’s side the Lord was on—Israel’s or their adversaries. By the end of the conversation, Joshua’s question was put back on him, and he was the one who had to clarify who’s side he was on.

Key Scripture: Joshua 5:13-15

Takeaway / Application: Someone said, “*God doesn’t ask us questions so HE can get answers. God asks us questions so WE can get answers.*” Joshua asks the Lord a question—but the answer he got wasn’t what he expected. The Lord flipped the script and Joshua was the one having to answer the Lord. The response Joshua gives provides five evidences and indicators that He was on the Lord’s side. Can we answer in the same manner?

- Evidence/Indicator #1 that we are on the Lord’s side is **CLARITY** (14a). The Lord made it crystal clear to Joshua who was really in command and in charge of God’s army. Pastor Jon emphasized how we are living in a day of blurred lines, fogged lenses and confused consciences. Can you share an example of where the Lord brought clarity to you from His word about a person, a circumstance, or a decision? Read Proverbs 30:5 about God’s Word and how we can find clarity from the Scriptures.
- Evidence/Indicator #2 is **WORSHIP** (14b). When you take the *Four C’s Test: Calendar, Cash, Conscience, Clan*—does what you invest your time in, what you spend your money on, what consumes your thoughts, and the people you do life with—do those areas reveal that it is God who gets your worship?
- Joshua 5:14c is Evidence/Indicator #3: **WISDOM**. If Joshua was going to accomplish the mission before him, he needed to quiet his mouth and open his ears to what Jesus had to say. When faced with great challenges, do you make God’s Word and communicating with God through prayer your first priority or your last resort? Read and discuss Proverbs 4:5-9.
- Evidence/Indicator #4 is **HUMILITY** (15a). Have someone in your group read James 4:10 and 1 Peter 5:6. Discuss Joshua’s *posture*. He wasn’t just surrendered to the Lord in heart, mind, and words—but with his whole being, including his body. He bowed himself low. Read John 3:30. Is the Lord constantly being increased, or are you consistently aiming to elevate yourself?
- **OBEDIENCE** is Evidence/Indicator #5 that Joshua was indeed on the Lord’s side (15b). He did what the Lord instructed him to do. Are you able to testify that in all areas of your life, God can speak into? And what He says on any particular issue or subject concerning you—your answer is, “Yes, Lord, yes.”