

Battling with Confidence

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Joshua 5:13-15

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

I. Have confidence with the Gospel... it is God's plan to deliver the Gospel (sword) through YOU!

- Joshua's attitude changed when confronted
 - Who's battle is it? Ours or Theirs? NO! It is God's
 - Jesus is our Conqueror - He doesn't take sides
 - our job is to ask, "what does my Lord say to His servant?"

II. Have confidence with the Gospel... because Jesus is the great and effective Deliverer!

- Jesus is better than Moses & better than Joshua Mt 5-7
OT narratives point us to Jesus & His agenda. Isaiah 55:6-11
- We are to fight God's battle's using God's methods Dt 20:1-4
- Apply: we fight a battle for souls as God's servants - Act 13:48 using the Sword of the Spirit (Word) Eph 6:17
- God will deliver many out of sin to Jesus' freedom through us
 - Remember the battles God has already won despite us: King Sihon Dt 2:26-36; King Og Dt 3:1-17. In fact, He has already reminded us it is His battle Dt 3:21-22
 - Apply: we can have confidence in our battles for Jesus. Act 13:47 quoting Isa 49:6

III. Have confidence with the Gospel... because you are using God's weapons that are powerful

- God's sword is drawn v13:
He is present with us and provides us with His Word which is ALL we need!
- Your weapons of battle are powerful 2 Cor 10:3-5
 - we often try to fight with the wrong weapons Mt 26:51-54 Matthew chps 5-7 provides us with a weapon guide
- The Spirit of God Goes with Us!
 - Paul's prayer for believers: 1 Thes 1:2-5
 - God's promise: Act 1:8; Mt 28:20
 - The Gospel is powerful Eph 6:17; 1 Cor 1:18
- Let us be faithful like Joshua and Follow King Jesus!
 - Let us fight our Holy War not like the world, but let us fight it as we Worship, Pray and Proclaim God's Word in ALL of life!

ASK & APPLY: how do the Gospel rhythms we've talked about apply:

- Bless: We intentionally bless others though serving, encouraging, giving, and thinking of those around us. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we focus on others.
- Listen: We intentionally listen to others through questions, focus, and attentiveness to their story and who they are.
- Eat: We intentionally eat through sharing our meals, drinks, and moments around the critical necessity of nourishment.
- Speak: We intentionally speak the truths of Jesus by graciously and boldly proclaiming the gospel in all scenarios of life.
- Sabbath/Celebrate/Recreate: We intentionally work, rest, and enjoy the fruit of the gospel and fruit of God's creation. We pause to remember we are God's mission as we're on God's mission. The mission is His, not ours.

For Further Study & Application: read Matthew chps 5-7

- Jesus' words are counter-cultural. How often do we dismiss them as being unrealistic? How do we do that?
- Take each section and discuss/think about how we might apply these words to our battle for King Jesus today as we fight for souls.

For Further Study & Application: using God's Weapons

How do these passages inform us on how to use God's Weapons in our battle for souls?

- A description of our weapons: 2 Cor 10:3-5 - discuss what these actually mean in day-to-day Gospel Influenced living?
- How do we sometimes try to be like Peter (Jn 18:10) and use the wrong sword Mt 26:51-54? How does Matthew chps 5-7 guide us?
- Discuss how we should pray and how we should feel and act because God goes with us! Read 1 Thes 1:2-5 and Acts 1:8
- Remind yourselves of God's weapons: Eph 6:13-20; 1 Cor 1:18. What is a proper way for us as God's warriors to utilize them?