
Joshua: God's People in God's Land
 "The Lord Who Takes Over - Not Sides"
 Joshua 5: 13-15

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

"We ask, "Where does God fit into the story of my life?" when the real question is, "Where does my little life fit into the great story of God's mission?" – Christopher Wright

"We must not lag behind the king in some kind of unwarranted pessimism as though his first coming and present reign do not make a difference. We must not run ahead of the king in some kind of unwarranted triumphalism as though we're going to make utopia here before he comes again. We keep in step with the king." - David Jones

*"Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the King?
 Who will be His helpers, other lives to bring?
 Who will leave the world's side? Who will face the foe?
 Who is on the Lord's side? Who for Him will go?
 By Thy call of mercy, by Thy grace divine,
 We are on the Lord's side—. Savior, we are Thine!"* - Frances Havergal

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?
- How has the imposter syndrome intersected with your life/experience?
 - Are you more of the "I'll never make it" or the "I've arrived" variety or oscillating between the two?
- Joshua asks the Commander, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?"
 - What is behind this question, in your opinion?
 - Why does it meet a rebuke?
 - Where do you feel the push to choose sides and co-opt God on to a "side"?
- What is the effect of God re-establishing his chain of Command?
 - Do you gravitate towards this picture of God as the Sovereign Commander? Is it off-putting or attractive? Why or Why not?
- What relief comes from the realization that the battle belongs to the Lord and that he has come to fight for his interests?
 - What threat does that reality pose to our sense of authority and dominion?
- What do you make of God not taking sides and serving our agendas but inviting us to participate in his reclaiming and restoring the world to its created and intended holiness?
 - Where do you sense God calling you to join his service?