

Joshua 6:2-16, 20a - Another Army

This familiar story is preceded by a brief encounter between Joshua and an unidentified stranger in Joshua 5:13-15

As Joshua looks up, he sees a man standing before him with a drawn sword. Wanting to ascertain whether he is friend or foe, Joshua asks if he is for or against them. But the answer he gets is neither. The man identifies himself as the commander of the army of the Lord, implying that his role is not so much to help, but to assume command in the Lord's battle. Joshua is being reminded the battle is ultimately not Israel's battle with the Lord to provide help, but the Lord's battle with Israel needing to submit to the Lord's command (Gary Burge, 2012).

My Lord, I acknowledge Thee for my Lord and Captain, and therefore wait for Thy commands, which I am ready to obey. (John Wesley, 1765).

- Israel entered Canaan and consecrated itself to God. Then God and His army arrived to fight on Israel's behalf. This week, seek God's presence, make yourself available to Him, and realize He has an army we can't see.

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- Sin blinds us. It prevents us from recognizing how distant we are from God. Confess any sin and turn from it.

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- I will obey God in _____, no matter what other people think. I will submit to the Lord.

Next week: *Joshua 3:5-8*

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February 25, 2018

The 2nd Sunday of Lent

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

Today: *Psalm 25* (What is God saying to you?)

Monday: *John 13:1-20*

Tuesday: *Matthew 10:16-42*

Wednesday: *John 15:12-27*

Thursday: *Acts 6:8-15*

Friday: *James 1:2-18*

Saturday: *1 Peter 4:12-19*

Almighty God, by the power of Your Holy Spirit open our eyes, ears, hearts, and very lives to Your presence so we may worship and serve You in faithfulness; and be ‘blessing and healing reminders of Your love’ to all whose lives we touch. We offer our prayer in the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

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