

Sermon Outline

JOSHUA FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF JERICHO (BUT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?) | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Joshua 5:13-6:27; 7:1-26

The story so far: our bigger and better story ...

Part 1: The best day of my life (Joshua 5:13-6:27)

“Shalom, my name is Asher, I’m a soldier in Israel’s army” ...

- after 40 years in the desert ...

- not “how strong were the city defences” but “how willing were we to trust God’s promise to give us the Land”

- “the commander of the army of the LORD” (5:14)

- the battle-plan

- Joshua’s 2 instructions (6:17-19)

i. “Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house”

ii. “all the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron”

Ex 12:35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

My Theological Reflection #1: about the fall of Jericho ...

- “praying an impossible prayer is an act of faith”

- what would Rahab have thought?

Part 2: The worst day of my life (Joshua 7:1-26)

- from success in Jericho to disaster in Ai ...

- “the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water” (7:5)

- what went wrong?

- “I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction” (7:12)

- “Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!” (1:18)

My Theological Reflection #2: about Achan’s sin ...

i. why did Achan do it?

- “the only thing stopping us from sinning is lack of opportunity”

ii. one person’s disobedience contaminates the whole community

- EVERY promise fulfilled ...

iii. why hasn’t God given up on us by now?

- what matters is not what WE are like but what GOD is like ...

- God will ALWAYS be faithful to His promises ...

Next week: the problem of Holy War in the Old Testament ...