



Pointers and questions on
JOSHUA 1-12

Session 4

5:1 –6:27

The fall of Jericho

Summary

- 5:1-12** The people make spiritual preparation for the battles ahead: they circumcise all the male Israelites and they celebrate the Passover – both commands of God hitherto neglected.
- 5:13-15** God appears in a human form to encourage Joshua's faith as the military campaign is about to begin. His presence is a reminder that this is the Lord's battle, not Joshua's.
- 6:1-27** As the people follow God's instructions, Jericho's walls collapse and the Israelites conquer the city, sparing only Rahab and her family.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Imagine if you could read the minds of our enemies – Satan and his demon hordes. What would you find there? Could 5:1 provide a clue?
2. Joshua ran a great risk when, in the face of danger from Canaanite attack, he incapacitated his entire army for many days by circumcising them. Why did he do it? (see 5:2) Any lessons for us here as we, too, face spiritual danger?
3. The disobedient generation who left Egypt had not bothered to circumcise their sons (5:5-7), thus robbing them of the mark of Israel's covenant with God. Talk about the effects of parental spirituality (or lack of it) on the next generation.
4. Being circumcised qualified them to keep the Passover festival (Exodus 12:43-44, 48) – and the official annual date for the Passover just happened to come round at this time! God's timing is perfect. Give some examples of God's perfect timing from your own experience.
5. When normal produce was available, God's miraculous provision of manna ceased (5:11-12). Are there any lessons here for us today? Does it help to explain why miracles of healing, for example, are far more common in countries without modern medical facilities?
6. Who do you think the person was who appeared to Joshua as the conquest of Canaan was about to begin (5:13-15)? Look at the verses carefully before you answer.
7. We all have our battles to fight against sin and evil, both within and without. How does it help you to know that the commander of the army of the LORD is close by, with a drawn sword in his hand?
8. What is the army of the LORD? It certainly included the Israelite forces, but could it be more than that? See 2 Kings 6:8-17; Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 1:14.
9. Note Joshua's question in 5:14. Can we learn anything about prayer from this?
10. Talk about the battle plan in 6:3-5. Does it seem sensible? Can we learn anything from this about being willing for God to do things in unusual ways as we trust him? Can you relate any personal examples?
11. What were the dangers in marching round the city this way? What demands did this put on the Israelites' faith? Note Hebrews 11:30.
12. In spite of the obvious temptation, no plunder was to be taken for personal use (6:17-19). What does this teach us about the importance of self-discipline in the Christian life? How much have you got?

