

Joshua 5 | Joshua prepares to take Jericho

Joshua 5:1-15

Joshua 5:1

When all the *kings in the promised land* heard how the LORD had dried up the Jordan River so *God's people* could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.

Joshua 5:2-8

At that time the LORD told Joshua, "...circumcise this second generation of *my people*." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the entire male population...Joshua had to circumcise them because all the men who were old enough to fight in battle when they left Egypt had died in the wilderness...*because they had disobeyed God*...So Joshua circumcised their sons—those who had grown up to take their fathers' places—for they had not been circumcised on the way to the Promised Land. After all the males had been circumcised, they rested in the camp until they were healed.

Joshua 5:9-12

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt."...While *God's people* were camped *there*, they celebrated Passover—*when they were freed from slavery in Egypt*...The very next day they began to eat unleavened bread and roasted grain harvested from the land. No manna appeared on the day they first ate from the crops of the land, and it was never seen again. So from that time on *God's people* ate from the crops of *the promised land*.

Joshua 5:13-15

When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?"

"Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the LORD's army."

At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?"

The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did as he was told.

Questions for meditation

- *What do you like about this story?*
- *What bothers you—or what seems odd in this story?*
- *Why did God ask his people to be circumcised? Why did he ask them to celebrate the Passover? Why did the manna stop?*
- *What is the significance of Joshua's meeting with the commander of God's army? How is it different than Moses' meeting with God at the burning bush? Why do you think Joshua responds differently than Moses did?*
- *What does this story mean to you personally, right now in your walk with God?*
- *Is there past shame that God needs to roll away? How is he doing that? How are you responding to his working in that area?*
- *How have you been preparing yourself for what God has for you?*