

Discussion Guide

Series: *To Be Continued... , wk3 The Tale of Three Battles*

July 14, 2024



Big Idea

God's ways are better than our ways.



Icebreaker

Have you ever experienced being punished as a group...maybe as a kid at home, or on a sports team, or in a class...because of the prank (or something) of one person who wouldn't confess? Describe the situation and how you felt about it.



Discussion Questions

1. This sermon looked at three battles. Throughout our lives, including our walk with Jesus, we face battles. There is typically a spiritual element to them. Meaning, perhaps, a way we should approach, or engage in said battle per the Lord, but that we don't think will work. Or we don't want to do it that way, etc.. Looking at your life, is there a battle like that which you are currently in and could share about? Or is there a battle from your past like that which you could share about?
2. Read Joshua 5:13-15. What is Joshua's response to this visitor's identification of himself? What does this say about the condition of Joshua's heart despite him being the bold & mighty commander that he was? What is the condition of your heart toward the Lord as you face a battle? In other words, do you tend to be open to & soft to His ways? Or more reliant on your own ways & hardened to His? Why is this important to consider?
3. Battle 1: Read Joshua 6:2-5 & 20. Talk about the aspects of God's communicated battle plan (vs. 2-5) including, do they make any human sense? What are some ways of the Lord that, to you, don't make sense (i.e. forgiveness of others, prayer for & love for your enemies, etc.)? In vs. 20 we see Israel's success, what was the secret to their success in this battle? Fill in the blanks: *God's w___ are better than our w___*. When have you trusted & followed that statement and seen that it is in fact true?
4. Battle 2: Read Joshua 6:17-19 & 7:1, 4-5. What went wrong for the Israelites in Battle 2 & why? How does this apply to our lives today? How should this impact how you view your own personal sin?
5. Read Joshua 7:6-26. From this reading, summarize what Joshua, God, & Achan are individually seen doing & saying. Share some takeaways from your observations here, including what they may mean for you.
6. Battle 3: Read Joshua 8:1-2, 18-19. What was the result of this third battle now that this sin issue of Israel had been rooted out? How can this be applied to your life? How do we see Joshua lead here?



Concluding Question

Near the end of his life, Dallas Willard (American Philosopher known for his writings on Christian spiritual formation) shared this as advice to anyone who wants to grow spiritually: "*Do the next right thing you know you ought to do.*" How does this apply to our readings today? How can this apply to your life today? What do you need to do?



Prayer

Revive Wesleyan just had over 60 youth with several adult volunteers (a total of close to 80 people) engage in Never The Same (NTS) Camp at Houghton College. Many responded by placing their faith in Jesus; committing FULLY to Him; sensing a call to ministry. Pray that those seeds are protected, continued to be watered & sprout/grow into the full maturity Christ desires of them.