

Entering a new land #5

Introduction

- Context for studies:
 - like God's people, I've suggested we are currently outside the land of God's promise, to some extent
 - emphatically not in terms of salvation...
 - but in terms of context, particularly missional context... we have not taken this new land for Christ
- Jesus' command: **go and make disciples**
 - to bring God's kingdom
- We've seen Joshua and the people spy out the land, seeking to discern what God is doing:
 - willing to leave the safety of our own camp
 - willing to listen
 - willing to find help in unexpected places
 - willing to demonstrate grace
 - willing to reflect on what we hear, putting it into the context of God's plan to bring his Lordship to this new territory...
- We've seen Joshua and the people moving over the Jordan, marking that move with those stones that recalled their identity, and God's action
- We've seen Joshua and the people devoted fully to the Lord
- And now we see them at their first point of conflict and potential conquest
 - a defining moment in their onward journey into conquest...

Rooted in trust

- What God said in **v.2: I have delivered Jericho**
 - this past tense statement from God invites trust
 - do you trust God?
- Invitations require response: eg wedding invitations...

Acting on trust

- Trust proved in action
 - doing something illogical, in obedience
 - not by human ingenuity or strategy does something happen here

Persist in trust

- How daft are you willing to appear?
 - even when something doesn't appear to be working?

Proved trustworthy

- Rahab and her family spared
 - things devoted to the Lord are devoted to the Lord

Conclusion

- *So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land. (27)*