

Entering a new land #6

Introduction

- It has all been going so well...
 - entering a new land, taking territory for God, seeing him pave the way, defeat the enemies...
- But then things take a turn for the worse...
 - *(do they always? Or are we just a bunch of pessimists in this country?)*

What's the Sin?

- Disobedience
- Theft
- Greed
- Selfishness
- Israelites - but only one person sinned?
- Like a film: we know the problem before Joshua and the other characters in the drama do!
 - so we can see the consequences coming...
- Is there also a cockiness, a taking God for granted, thing going on?
 - who directed the Jericho campaign - the commander of the Lord's army
 - who directs this campaign - Joshua...
 - don't send all the people... its not important enough... but not seeing with spiritual eyes, only with human eyes...
 - what opposition do we think we are facing as we share faith, make relationships, speak truth, bring light and hope?

What's the Symptom?

- Defeat
 - denting of God's glory
 - conquest thwarted
 - *(how do we avoid a slot machine mentality - sin=failure, purity=success)*
 - *(and what do we count as defeat?)*

What's the Solution?

- Purification:
 - a dealing with the sin, rather than ignoring it and hoping it will go away
 - (v.6) a listening to God, and what his priority is, what is really going on (not a military or tactical error)
- Questions: where is grace here?
 - don't know!
 - Achan confessed his sin... (v.20) What more could he have done, having sinned?
 - (hid his sin by not confessing earlier)
 - and why did his children (wife not mentioned) and possessions have to die? Specific to the nature of the sin he'd committed?

What's the Application?

- Sin is serious, not least in mission "success"
- Where there are symptoms we need to be asking questions...
- Solution is repentance