

Entering a new land #7

Introduction

- What's it like to be between Joshua 7 & 8?
 - in the in-between of having sinned, and having dealt with it before God, but not knowing whether things will ever be the same again...
- On Go-Ape yesterday...!
 - (net image then on to Thetford image)
 - observed with some of the more timid members of the party that it was the not knowing what it would be like that was almost the biggest impediment to action...
- *What it feels like may be more of a pit than we can perceive if we are not in that place just now...*

Does sin spoil ministry for ever?

- I guess a key question is "Does sin spoil ministry for ever?" (image)
- Yes, and no...
- But lets look more specifically at what happened to Joshua and the people:

Promise is reaffirmed

- Repeat of promise from beginning of book v.1, cf 1:6,9...
- God is for us!
 - he still loves us...
- *"There is nothing we can do to make God love us more... and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less!", Philip Yancey (image)*

Coming back to listening

- coming back to listening, eg, v.3, ("so" - he'd listened to vs.1-2!)

Coming back to service

- coming back to action, to service, v.3, "moved out..."

Coming back to obedience

- coming back to obedience, eg v.18, etc

Coming back to Scripture

- coming back to Scripture, eg v.34-35, cf 1:8
- all its promises and riches and instructions...

Conclusion

- (Cross image)
- Have we repented from sin?
 - then the promise **is** reaffirmed!
 - and the invitation is to come back to listening, acting, obedience and to Scripture...
 - though the consequences may not be so blatant as they were for God's people round Ai, *yet we should begin to see a restoration of fruitfulness...*