

Entering a new land #9, inc "The battle belongs to the Lord"

- From the initial series outline, put Joshua 10 & 13 together, having skipped a Joshua session last week...

Introduction

- Recap:
 - entered the land **at his command**, to take "territory" for the king, to see his rule established
 - reflected on call to **spy out the land**, to look, to listen, to see what the culture really is - and to look for God already at work even in the midst of a culture alien to us, or at odds with God's ways
 - saw how we need to **actually enter in**, not just talk about it but act, in dependence on God (crossing river), and acknowledging him (stones from the river)
 - thought about how God's people were **devoted wholly to him** and his ways (circumcision), taking direction from the Lord's commander
 - as they conquered **Jericho**, we saw that God doesn't always act in the way we might expect him to! **Trust him...**
 - and we saw the **people's failure in Achan's sin**, whose symptom was defeat and whose solution was purification
 - then we saw that **God restores**, re-affirming promises and inviting us back to listening, service, and obedience
 - last time we reflected on those **times of uncertainty**, when we don't know what is going on, when stuff is unclear - call to ask God, to pray, and to wait for his answer - and to offer grace in the midst...
- **Have we learned all we can?**
 - suggest there are still plenty of nuggets here worth mining for!

The battle belongs to the Lord

- God can move in ways mighty and mysterious...
- There are seasons of blessing, of victory, of harvest, of revival
- Do we believe God can move?
 - or do we just say it because to voice our real feeling that he won't will be socially unacceptable in the context of church?
- What do we pray for?
 - sun stand still...!!
 - *There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a man. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel! (10:14)*

Land still to be taken

- What are we willing to let God do through us?
 - take the whole land?
- Don't rest on laurels
- Full victory won't be with us till glory - now and not yet...