

Word Notes Sunday 19/10/14 Tony Hodge – God’s Plan

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Joshua 5:13-15, Joshua 6

Joshua’s meeting with this enigmatic “Commander of the Lord’s armies” is a key moment and it’s worthwhile taking time to consider who this was. Scholars and teachers agree this is a pre-incarnational appearance of Jesus – a Christophany. What are the signs? He accepts worship; The ground is holy - Joshua must take off his shoes; Joshua calls him Lord.

It all makes sense when we consider that Joshua is about to start the campaign to possess the Promised Land. He sets out, perhaps to reconnoitre the city for attack, probably on his own since he has to report the conversation and instructions back to others, and comes across the one who is really commanding the battle.

Just as the LORD had a plan for Joshua he also has a plan for our lives too. More than anything else it’s a plan for our salvation and for us to enter the inheritance he has won for us on the cross. Like Joshua it starts with worship then obedience, even when the plan doesn’t immediately make sense.

Points to note about the plan and its execution are:

- God could have done this all on His own but chose to partner with Israel.
- The Lord met with them.
- The plan was complete and sufficient (all those ‘7’s) and victory was total.
- Promises were kept – Rahab saved (6:17)
- No place was allowed for the enemy (no “devoted things” v18)
- All the “spoils” (glory) went to God (v19)
- The enemy is not allowed back (v26)
- Result – All could see the LORD was with Joshua (v27)

Our salvation also starts with acknowledging Jesus and rather than asking if he fits with our plans or not falling down in worship of him and allowing him to be Lord but this is just the start! Notice that having received Joshua’s worship the LORD gives him instructions. What plans does the Lord have for you, for NCC?

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

1, How did you meet the Lord? Was it like Moses, Joshua or Paul’s experience or more like the 3000 added to the church at Pentecost or less dramatic or more gradual? What similarities were there with Joshua’s experience? Think of these points: God met Joshua, Joshua didn’t know him at first, Joshua worshipped, God spoke, Joshua believed, Joshua obeyed.

2, Joshua went out towards Jericho and that’s when God met with him. When did you last seek the Lord for the plans he has for you? What did he say and are you actively working with him or passively waiting for it to happen?

3, a) Why did the “man” say he was on neither side (5:14), doesn’t Paul tell us that “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Rom 8:31). (*Hint – put it this way: is God on your side or are you on his?*)

b) What pitfalls could there be in a person, a church or a nation proclaiming that God is on their side?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

When Joshua relayed the instructions to the priests (6:6) and the people (6:7) they heard and put the plan into action. What do you think encouraged them to do such a crazy thing? What encourages you to get stuck in to NCC actions and projects? How can you assist and support leaders as they consider how to respond to God’s call to break out and reach the town for Jesus?