

Whose Side Are You On? Joshua 5:13-15

▶ **Joshua 5:13 (English Standard Version)**

¹³When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"



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- ▶ "Now" ~ Certainly we're ready to go now, right?
- ▶ Two ways to look at "now"
 - ▶ 1. What's happening now?
 - ▶ The dilemma of confidence and doubt side by side
 - ▶ Private doubts and fears and concerns
 - ▶ 2. Now- let's go!
 - ▶ Is the clock our lord? Or the calendar?
 - ▶ Are our desires and lusts and impulses our lords?
 - ▶ I'm in a hurry, but God isn't



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- ▶ A man with a sword; who is this?
- ▶ An angel with a sword in his hand; what's happening?
- ▶ 1. Judgement is coming
- ▶ 2. Salvation is coming
- ▶ We must bring our loved ones to him and ask him to cut them, to wound them, so they can live! (Deut. 32:39)



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- ▶ Joshua asks the question we'd all ask, “Whose side are you on?”
- ▶ We do this too!
- ▶ We knee-jerk respond to all hardships and we say, "God, how can you help me?" Because we assume God is as concerned with our frivolous emotions as we are.



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▶ **Joshua 5:14 (English Standard Version)**

¹⁴And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"



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- ▶ The answer is stunning ~ "Neither"
- ▶ The angel from the Lord with a sword at the battle...isn't on either side!
- ▶ This is THE Angel of the Lord ~ and it all clicks for Joshua this is Christ before He came in the flesh
- ▶ God has come at their time of need ~ but, as usual, He's not as interested in their victory as He is in their faith



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- ▶ There are several lessons to be learned from the Lord's presence at the battlefield
- ▶ 1. Be on God's side
- ▶ We spend a lot of energy and emotional equity fighting
- ▶ Are we with God in His fights?
- ▶ 2. My life is God's business
- ▶ God shows up to announce that this is all His
- ▶ “This is holy ground”
- ▶ There is no sacred or secular when we're obedient and prepared
- ▶ My life is God's business ~ Am I participating in it?



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- ▶ 3. Who can fight the Lord?
- ▶ Who can stand against the Lord and his drawn sword?
- ▶ Enemies of God (unrepentant, unregenerate sinners) ~ Why fight?
- ▶ Put down your swords and cry out for mercy!
- ▶ Are you fighting the Lord?
- ▶ The cross of Christ is now His sword and it both redeems and condemns
- ▶ 4. Be a Joshua
- ▶ Only Joshua saw this
- ▶ God comes to and communes with those who are watching and ready for battle
- ▶ Align with the Spirit and His motives and plans



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- ▶ Whose side are you on?
- ▶ Are you fighting the Lord?
- ▶ Be a Joshua

