

**Ephesians 4:25** "... put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor ...."

**Ephesians 4:31** "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."

**Ephesians 5:10** "Find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>[11]</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

**God's People Need to Prepare!**  
**Joshua 5:1-12**  
**Lesson #9**  
**10/27/24**

**I. The enemy were paralyzed with fear before the fight.**

**\*Joshua 5:1** "Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they<sup>[a]</sup> had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites."

**Isaiah 55:8** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>[9]</sup> As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

**II. The Jewish people prepared before the fight.**

**A. They needed to be circumcised before the battle.**

**\*Joshua 5:2** "At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again."

**\*Joshua 5:3** "So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth."

**\*Joshua 5:4** "Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the desert on the way after leaving Egypt."

**\*Joshua 5:5** "All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the desert during the journey from Egypt had not."

**\*Joshua 5:6** "The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey."

*\*Joshua 5:7 “So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way.”*

*\*Joshua 5:8 “And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.”*

*\*Joshua 5:9 “Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal to this day.”*

## **B. They celebrated the Passover before the battle.**

*\*Joshua 5:10 “On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.’*

## **C. They consumed some produce before the battle.**

*\*Joshua 5:11 “The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain.”*

*\*Joshua 5:12 “The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.’*

## **III. The leader needed time in the presence of the Lord.**

### **A. Joshua looked up and saw a man with a drawn sword.**

*\*Joshua 5:13 “Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”*

### **B. Joshua learned that this man is the commander and Lord.**

*\*Joshua 5:14a “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come ....”*

***Matthew 26:53** “Do you think I cannot call on my Father and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”*

***Hebrews 1:14** “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.”*

## **C. Joshua lay prostrate before the Lord and worshipped.**

***Joshua 5:14b** “... Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”*

***Revelation 22:8** “I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. <sup>[9]</sup> But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”*

*\*Joshua 5:15 “The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.”*

## **How can we apply this lesson to our life!**

### **A. Spiritual preparation involves humble worship before the Lord.**

***Joshua 5:14b** “... Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence,*

***I Chronicles 16:25** “For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.”*

***I Chronicles 16:29** “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come before Him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness.”*

### **B. Spiritual preparation involves a holy walk before the Lord.**

*\*Joshua 5:15 “The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.”*

***Ephesians 4:22b** “... put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.”*