

“Before the Battle: Renewing Commitment for the Next Generation”

Text: Joshua 5:1-15

Introduction

Joshua 5 is one of the most surprising chapters in the book. Israel has finally crossed the Jordan. Jericho is in sight. The promise is within reach. If we were writing the story, this is where the battle plans would start.

But God presses pause.

Before walls fall, before swords are drawn, before victories are claimed, God calls His people to renewal.

This chapter shows us that spiritual renewal always precedes spiritual legacy.

1. Renewal Begins with Remembering What He Commands (Joshua 5:1–9)

God commands Joshua to circumcise the Israelites at Gilgal. This seems strange—circumcision was the sign of the covenant given to Abraham. The generation that came out of Egypt had failed to pass this identity marker on to their sons during the wilderness years.

The generation wandering through the wilderness were so concerned with walking into the promised land that they forgot to pass on what the Lord has taught them.

Before God will bless our church, I believe He examines our commitments. Renewal is not about nostalgia—it’s about obedience. **For the next generation to stand strong, they must see a faith that is practiced, not postponed.**

2. Renewal Is Passed On Through Intentional Obedience (Joshua 5:10–12)

After the circumcision, Israel celebrates the Passover. They celebrated an eternal truth. This was more than a ritual—it was a proclamation of God’s faithfulness to the next generation. Parents and leaders were reminding their children: This is who God is. This is what He has done.

And then something remarkable happens—the manna stops.

For forty years, God had provided daily bread from heaven. Now the people eat from the produce of the land. The miracle that sustained them in the wilderness gives way to the provision that will sustain them in maturity.

God’s faithfulness does not change, but the way He provides may.

- One generation’s miracle becomes the next generation’s responsibility.
- Our calling is not to cling to old methods, but to teach eternal truths in new seasons.
- The next generation must learn not only how God was faithful—but **how to trust Him now.**
- **When one generation only wants to talk about how faithful God was back there, I think they do a disservice to how faithful God is now!**
 - **God is moving now!**
 - **God is restoring now!**
 - **God is saving now!**
 - **God is blessing now!**
 - **God was faithful yesterday, BUT don’t lose sight or forget that He is faithful now!**

God saved yesterday, He is saving now!

3. Moving Forward, reaching the next generation Requires Submitting to God's Leadership (Joshua 5:13-15)

Can I point out to you before the walls fell, the leaders bowed.

Can I tell you the next generation isn't interested in our title. They aren't interested in our name. They are interested in authenticity. They are interested in lives submitted to Christ.

Closing

Notice that Israel has momentum. At this place in the story, the chips are all falling into place. They are having victories. They have crossed the Jordan and Jericho is right in front of them.... This is the moment to act.

BUT GOD SLOWS THE PACE TO FORM THE PEOPLE... GOD PAUSED THEIR PROGRESS TO SHAPE THEIR PURPOSE.

Can I remind you today... YOU NEED GOD!

You need Him for salvation. You need Him for tomorrow. In fact I would remind you that you can't even walk without holding His hand.

I thought that number one would surely be me,
I thought I would be what I wanted to be.
I thought I could build on life's sinking sand,
But I can't even walk without You holding my hand.

I thought I could do a lot on my own,
I thought I could make it all alone;
I thought of myself as a mighty big man,
But I can't even walk without You holding my hand.

Lord I can't even walk without You holding my hand.
The mountain's too high and the valley's too wide.
Down on my knees, I learned to stand.
Because I can't even walk without You holding my hand.

I think that I'll make Jesus my All,
From now on when I'm in trouble, on Him I will call;
If I don't trust Him, I'll be less than a man,
You see I can't even walk without You holding my hand.

Lord I can't even walk without You holding my hand.
The mountain's too high and the valley's too wide.
Down on my knees, I learned to stand.
Because I can't even walk without You holding my hand.