



Going Deeper

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide 6/13/2021

Positioning Ourselves to be Ready

On Sunday, guest speaker Pastor Jon Cobler asked if we are positioning ourselves to be ready for all God has in store for us. God has something in store for you that is better than what you can imagine and he suggested that we may need to shift something to be in a place to receive it. He looked at the life of Joshua to help us understand.

Moses had died and Joshua was the new leader of the whole group and the new commander of the army. He had a big job on his hands and he embraced it and was all fired up to do it well. In the midst of his plans and preparations a man with a sword appeared before him. Joshua, being in a dualistic frame of mind, asked, "Are you for us or against us?" Are you an ally or an adversary? The man responded, "Neither. I am the commander of the Lord's army."

Joshua had to shift his thinking to take that in. I can picture myself saying, "Wait. What?" I imagine Joshua multi-tasking, planning, and strategizing, with goal-oriented movement, coming to a screeching stop. Momentum has been carrying him forward and now he needs to slow down and move in a different direction.

The direction in which Joshua moved was to the ground in complete surrender and acceptance to letting God direct the battle and following in obedience. Pastor Jon pointed out that Joshua had a shift in direction, a shift in attitude, and a shift in posture.

This message was very personal for me. The company where I have worked for nine years was just sold to a large corporation and my position will no longer exist on July 1st. It is easy to adopt a dualistic approach to my situation: this is bad, not good. I have a chance to embrace these shifts as I stare into an unknown future. What can I learn from Joshua's experience?

In Joshua 5:14 we see that Joshua shifted his posture in four ways: (1) He stopped. (2) He worshipped (3) He listened (4) and he obeyed. I know some of you are empathizing with me right now, but where are you and how can this message enrich your life?

Most people refer to "before COVID and after COVID" as a delineation in time. Each of us as individuals and as a church have been moving forward in some aspect of life. Two of Pastor Jon's questions to consider are (1) Do your present decisions seem more like reactions? And (2) Who is the loudest voice in your head? God is there somewhere and he wants us to be with Him. He wants us to posture ourselves so we can be with him and let him reveal his plan for our life so that ultimately, He will be glorified.

So Consider:

1. What does "a shift in direction" mean in your life right now? Is the shift a choice or something that you had no control over?
2. How has your attitude been affected by your personal identity? In what way might a shift in attitude be more reflective of your identity as a child of God?
3. What is your posture before God? Do you need to fall on your face in a more complete surrender to allow God to bring victory in your life and draw you closer to him?

Take Action:

In Joshua 5:13-14, Joshua asks if the commander is an ally or adversary. Imagine the tables were turned and the commander of God's armies asks Joshua the same question. As you are self-reflective and think about how your life, desires, actions, and behaviors, how is your life aligned with God's kingdom?

*If you would be interested in joining the writing team for Going Deeper please contact Pastor Linda.
May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ~Tess*