

DATE: Saturday-Sunday, August 22-23, 2020

SERIES: *RENEW*

SERMON: Be Ready!

Joshua 5:13-15

[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?"

[14] "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"

[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.

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SCRIPTURE: *Joshua 5:13-15*

Get Ready . . .

1. By meeting with God.

- What do these verses mean?
 - The presence of God.
 - The Angel of the Lord.
- Why doesn't this happen today?
- Can I have this?
 - You can in the Words of Scripture.
 - You can in devoted prayer.
 - You can in public and private worship.

2. By letting God have control.

- Don't box God in.

3. By yielding to God in all things.

- The story of Ai.
- Obedience is total and complete.
 - Partial obedience is disobedience.
 - Deferred obedience is disobedience.

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Get Ready . . .

1. By _____ with God.

- What do these verses _____?
 - The _____ of God.
 - The _____ of the Lord.
- Why doesn't this _____ today?
- Can I have this?
 - You can in the _____.
 - You can in _____.
 - You can in _____ and _____.

2. By letting God have _____.

- Don't _____ God in.

3. By _____ to God in all things.

- The story of Ai.
- _____ is total and complete.
 - _____ is disobedience.
 - _____ is disobedience.

Lagniappe

First Baptist Church has been wonderfully blessed, and I thank God and your faithfulness for making this happen.

We have now been “regathered” for 15 weeks. During this time, we have seen many joy filled events. Our pastors and staff have worked tirelessly to continue the work of ministry during what could be described as “the most difficult church environment in our lifetimes”.

These are some of the ways we have been blessed:

First, we have not to this point experienced any “church spread” of the virus. We have also been blessed that only a relative few of our people have been infected. Unfortunately, we have seen the hurt and pain of the loss of loved ones from many people in our congregation.

I have prayed along with you, that God would protect His church.

Second, we have experienced many spiritual blessings. For example:

- We were able to have Vacation Bible School in a safe, happy environment. We have seen many children saved - and at least two whole families who have come to faith in Christ - because of VBS.
- New kids connect groups are being re-opened weekly due to increased attendance.
- Our worship attendance continues to grow as people become more comfortable with the safety measures of the church.

Third, though we are dealing with difficult times filled with frustration and difficulty, we have seen Christ-like attitudes on the part of our people.

Finally, we have seen people determined that “what was meant for evil, God has used for good”.

May you and I continue to seek to bless God and other people with our labors, our attitudes, and our prayers. May we continue to pray for God’s blessings, guidance and protection for our church today and in the days ahead.

