



Part 3: Fresh Pages

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Joshua and the Battle of Jericho (*Joshua 5 and 6*)

Principle: You are never more spiritually vulnerable after a moment of great victory

("I did great!")

Poison: Israel was infected with the poison of self-reliance

("Look at what I accomplished!")

Precaution: Protect yourself in the aftermath of victory

("I deserve to...")

Israel and the Loss at Ai (*Joshua 7-8*)

Poison: Israel's self-reliance caused a tragic loss

Principle: God never winks at secret sin

Principles of rewriting a broken story:

Own your part

Forgive what you can forgive

Leave the rubble behind

Relinquish control to God and God alone

Rewriting and Reconfirming God's Ending to the Story

Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel... All Israel, aliens and citizens alike, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant... Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law...

Highlights from the “reading”: Deuteronomy 8

¹ Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. ² Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

⁶ Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.

¹¹ Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. ¹² Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

¹⁷ You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” ¹⁸ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today. ¹⁹ If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Share a great victory moment you’ve achieved in your life. It’s ok to brag just a little!
- 2) What do you know about the story of Joshua and Jericho? Read Joshua 5-6 and name some lessons from this great epic.
- 3) What precautions can you take that will protect you from self-reliance?
- 4) Which of the principles of rewriting a broken story is the most difficult for you? Why? How is God calling you to take that step?
- 5) What part of your life do you want God to rewrite? What do you need to do to win that victory in God’s strength?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?