

# Joshua

## Part 10 – Entering Rest

### Joshua 11-12

#### **Do not be afraid (v.6)**

- God is bigger than our enemies
  - No matter what you're facing (even yourself), there's hope
- God has a plan for victory
  - In this case, God used their pride to harden their hearts so that they came to war and were given their just punishment (v.20)
  - Pride is a terrible thing that God opposes (James 4, 1 Peter 5)
  - He used Joshua to bring His plan to fruition – and He wants to use us too to push back the darkness in our world
  - Just in case we need the reassurance, God has never lost (CHESS – SAM) – see ch. 12

#### **Be obedient in everything (v.9, 15)**

- When it's easy, be obedient
- When it doesn't make sense, be obedient
- When it's unpopular, be obedient
- When it means sacrifice, be obedient
- When it exposes your weakness, be obedient

#### **He is leading us to rest (v.23)**

- Nothing that happens is aimless or purposeless
- What is not right will be right in the end

#### *“Rest” is not fully ours yet*

- What Joshua tasted, Jesus offers in its fullness (TASTE TEST)

#### *“Today” is opportunity*

- David, much later, said that there is opportunity to enter God's rest
  - Some didn't enter because of disobedience (v.6)
- We strive to enter by obedience – not failing because of similar disobedience (v.11)
  - That disobedience is the hardening of our hearts toward God's initiative of love
  - God uses His Word to pierce us and expose us – this sounds painful, but He's doing so in love (v.12-13)

- Is this the kind of God you want to respond to? (depends on how much junk you see in your life)
- Doesn't stop there – He's the great high priest, full of empathy and mercy (v.14-16)

What's best: come to Him, enter His rest (Matthew 11.28-30)

#### Questions for Discussion

1. When you hear the word rest, what is a moment, a picture, or a feeling that comes to mind? Why is that your particular reaction?
2. If your heart was laid bare before the others in your group, what would they see is the most deep-seated fear that you have? What fear bubbles closest to the surface?
3. Regarding obedience, what do you find easy? What part of obedience doesn't make sense to you right now? Where is obedience unpopular in your life? Where is obedience a point of sacrifice? Where is obedience exposing your weaknesses?
4. Reread Hebrews 4. Concentrate on v.6-16. What does it say about Jesus? What does it say about you?
5. How has God used His Word to pierce you and His Presence to remind you that He sees everything? What changed immediately? What took time to change?