

## *RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE*

# **FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Joshua 5:1-15*      *Jeff Schrevoe*



*Now it came about when all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel until they had crossed, that their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the sons of Israel. Joshua 5:1*

**What does God want to teach us between Jordan and Jericho?**

**Consecration comes before conquest.**

A. Physical circumcision was the sign of the covenant.

1. This was a test of faith.

2. This rolled away the reproach and taunts of Egypt.

"Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Or else My wrath will go forth like fire And burn with none to quench it, Because of the evil of your deeds." Jeremiah 4:4

B. Spiritual circumcision happens when you trust Christ.

In him you were also circumcised. It was not a circumcision performed by human hands. But it was a removal of the corrupt nature in the circumcision performed by Christ. Colossians 2:11  
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## **2. God wants His people to celebrate His great deliverance.**

*While the sons of Israel camped at Gilgal, they observed the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month on the desert plains of Jericho. Joshua 5:10*

A. The Passover was a time of rejoicing and remembrance.

*"And you shall observe this event as an ordinance for you and your children forever. "When you enter the land which the LORD will give you, as He has promised, you shall observe this rite. "And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.'" And the people bowed low and worshiped. Exodus 12:24-27*

*On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year. Joshua 5:11-12*

B. The manna was a reminder of God's faithfulness.

## **3. God wants His people to surrender to His Lordship.**

*Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and*

said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?" And the captain of the LORD's host said to Joshua, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13-15

A. The LORD comes to take over.

*"My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right." –Abraham Lincoln*

B. The LORD comes to fight your battles.

C. The LORD wants us to get low in His holy presence.

**Will you obey the Lord?**