

August 20th, 2023  
**A Mu Question**  
Joshua 5

## Open with prayer

***\*Psalm 130 - Additional Scripture for the discussion: read to close or use as an opening meditation.***

## ***Read for insight into the scripture***

Andrew titled his sermon, “a mu question” What is Mu? It is an eastern concept that defines something that is shallow or lacking. It even means “un” as in undo, or unsay or un-ask. Mu questions aren’t bad, they are just leading and filled with agenda and need to be re-worded. Think of the question, “Are you a dog person or a cat person?” This isn’t a bad question, but it implies that the hearer is obviously one or the other. The question that needs to be asked first is, “Do you like animals?”

This week the Hebrew people are beginning to settle in the Promise Land. They have finished the long journey getting there, have had a turnover in leadership as Moses has passed away and left Joshua in charge.

Joshua has been faithful in leading and could potentially start to think that his decisions make or break the entire nation of Israel. Joshua is facing the next obstacle on the journey, Jericho. Joshua went out to check out what sort of plan of attack they needed to face the dreaded Jericho with its wicked people and horrific religious practices. This is where we find him in the scripture for today.

## ***Read Joshua 5:1-9***

- ***What stands out to you in this section of scripture?***
- ***What does scripture tell us about why the Israelites are circumcised?***
- ***What 2 things happened when the circumcising of the nation was finished?***
- ***Why do you think vs. 9 was important when establishing the Hebrew people in their land?***

## ***Read Joshua 5:10-12***

- ***What stands out to you in this section of scripture?***
- ***Talk about why this passover meal in vs. 12 is significant. What does this tell us about God and his provisions?***

## **Read Joshua 5:13-15**

- **What stands out to you in this section of scripture?**
- **Why do you think Joshua's question is leading, or mu?**
- **Do you find yourself guilty of asking this kind of question as you face trouble in the world; the questions of who is not on my side/against me? Or the assumption that God is on your side/team?**

The struggle with discussion on this section of scripture is that it causes us to face places in our lives where we are trying to solve the problem and we are assessing who is for us and who is against us. The Lord is doing something bigger than we can often comprehend. This does not mean we don't have opinions or all is equal or even that none of this matters. What it seems to point to, is that, God is greater than we can understand, we are created in the image of God, and yet we often reduce people to simple identities and treat them accordingly.

Joshua's self-preservation or pride or fear or something else seemed to cause him to see things with limited perspective; Us vs. them.

God is the one who was fighting the battle and God still is the one who is fighting our battles. God wanted Joshua to know that he was standing on holy ground. God was going to make a way, but he needed Joshua humble and ready to hear the very strange directions that he was about to give him. There is no way that Joshua could take the glory for Jericho, there is no way that Moses could take the glory for the miracles the Israelites saw under the leadership of Moses. God's story is bigger, better, and draws glory to Him. We just get to take a part in it.

- **What would it look like to know people instead of dismiss them for where you believe they stand on an issue?**
- **How would we live differently if we looked at people instead of the line we've drawn in the sand?**

### **Practice for this week:**

**Try and commit Joshua 5:14b-15 to memory. This will come to mind next time you face uncertainty.**

"Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him 'What does my lord say to his servant?' And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, 'Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are staying is holy,' and Joshua did so."

## **Prayer Request and closing Prayer**

Ask if anyone has any prayers they would like to add to our prayer team, report back to Sarah. [sarah@thechapelatseaside.com](mailto:sarah@thechapelatseaside.com)

### **Quotes from Sermon:**

Aug 20-Aug 26

“We tend to see the battles we face as our battles and the forces we face as forces marshaled against us and our individual causes, concerns, agendas, and even our theological beliefs or positions on doctrine.” - J. Hampton Keathley,

We have drawn a line in the sand and we are looking at the line instead of looking in the eyes of the imago dei, the people created in the image of God or in the heart of God or the person of Jesus. - Andrew Beard

“Humility allows for a willingness to learn, but pride will stifle.”