

Life Group Study  
Joshua 6  
“Worship Changes Your Future”  
Week of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Study by Wayne Arcand

Pastor Sean Morton: Bottom Line – Your personal cleverness/ingenuity is settling for a lesser life.

### Conquest of Jericho

About worship. Doing something that seemed silly but trusting in the Lord to do it. There was no strategy to the conquest/victory. There wasn't a practical military perspective to what God was calling them to do. It was a test of faith. Keep going and trusting even when it seems like God isn't doing anything. They continued to worship. In worshipping, in trusting, and following through with faith they see the victory. And they only were able to enter into their best future that God had for them when they abandoned their own cleverness and relied on God for the victory

There are so many terms we use that we seem to instinctively know the meaning of, but when asked “what does it mean”, we find ourselves struggling to put into words what we think we understand. As we consider the theme of today's message, “Worship Changes Your Future”, we will look at the purpose of our worship. Pastor Sean will be exploring worship in the context of Joshua 6. In this study we will build on the concept of worship and how it changes our future by considering how we live our life as an act of worship.

1. I encourage you to open your Life Group study with a discussion on worship:
  - a. What is worship?
  - b. What does it mean to worship God?
  - c. Why must we worship God?
  - d. What does it mean to have an attitude of worship?
  
2. *John 4:<sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*
  - a. Discuss what it means to worship in truth and in spirit.
  
3. *Luke 10:<sup>27</sup> He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.”*
  - a. How does living out this verse impact our worship?
  - b. Can we love God and not our neighbour? Why?
    - i. Discuss some things that make it harder to love our neighbour as ourself. Does this excuse us from following God's command?
    - ii. What are some steps we can take to show love to our neighbour?
      1. If we are unwilling to do this, can we worship God in truth and in spirit?
  
4. *1 Thessalonians 5:<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
  - a. When is it difficult to rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks?
  - b. How do we move from “not wanting to”, “to wanting to”?

5. *Philippians 4:*<sup>6</sup> *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* <sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*
  - a. What is it that changes us from being anxious to being at peace?
  - b. Ask someone in your group to share a time when they personally experienced this peace.
  - c. What do they think the single most important factor was in their change of heart?
  
6. *Colossians 3:*<sup>23</sup> *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,* <sup>24</sup> *since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*
  - a. How do you view what you do? Is it something you do because you have to, or is it something you love doing?
  - b. How does an understanding of Colossians 3:23 change your attitude?
  - c. Discuss how this is an act of worship.
  
7. *Proverbs 3:5-6* *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*
  - a. How is trust in the Lord an act of worship?
  - b. What is the result of trusting in the Lord?

We have only touched on a few of the ways we worship the Lord. At this point, let's go back and look at Joshua 6. Read the chapter and discuss the following questions:

8. In verses 1-16, what were a couple of attitudes of the heart that were evident to you?
  - a. What attitude of the heart do you think they would have been fighting or perhaps experiencing during the six days? Why?
  
9. Trust and faith were two key character traits of the people in Joshua 6.
  - a. What evidence is there of this?
  - b. How did this impact Rahab and her family?
  - c. How did it impact the Nation of Israel?
  - d. What is the lesson for us?

For Reflection:

As I was asking the Lord for guidance in the preparation of this study, it became evident that we could do a whole series on worship. I love Pastor Sean's Bottom Line, "Your personal cleverness/ingenuity is settling for a lesser life." The Nation of Israel had personal experience on the cost of acting without God's blessing, and they also had personal experience with the tremendous blessing that was theirs when they had faith and trusted in their God. While we often can not see the reason for something happening, we need to trust that if we are seeking the Lord, asking for his guidance and trusting in his leadership, all will work out according to his plan. To trust and obey is an act of worship. In your quiet time with the Lord this week, ask him to show you an area of your life where you are having trouble trusting for his provision. Ask the Lord to make real to you the words of Psalm 28:7, "The Lord is my strength and my shield, my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.