
The Lord's Side (Called and Chosen)

Vision in The Land of Giants

Pastor Wil Nichols

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Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: Vision in The Land of Giants: The Lord's Side (Called and Chosen)

Lesson Text

Joshua 5:13–15 (AV)¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries? ¹⁴ And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? ¹⁵ And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so.

Matthew 20:16 (AV)¹⁶ **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**

Introduction

Last week, we began this series, “Vision in the Land of Giants” by looking at the message, “Well Able To Overcome: Overcome People, Overcome Walls, and Overcome Giants”.

Now that we've made the decision to NOT go back into the wilderness to die, we have to choose sides to fight for the vision!

Joshua 5: ¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries?

All of our lives, we've been making choices and choosing people for our team. We choose people who look like us and act like us. They make us happy and become our family and friends.

We also choose people who don't look like us nor act like us. They make us unhappy and become our haters and enemies.

Our whole society has become bitterly divided because of our choices: democrats vs. republicans, right vs. left, black vs. white, conservative vs. liberal, black lives vs. blue lives ...

The other day I was expressing my views on a certain matter, and someone said, “You sound like a stone-cold liberal,” perhaps to intimidate me because I didn't sound like him. My response was simple, “No I sound like a stone-cold Wil!”

The point I was making was I'm neither a liberal nor a conservative, I'm Wil; and my views and opinions are not based on left nor right, but on the Word of God.

Joshua 5: ¹³ ... and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries? ¹⁴ And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come.

In other words, I'm not on your side, nor am I on their side, but I am on the Lord's side.

Deuteronomy 30: ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: ²⁰ That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

In the Land of Giants, we are going to have to choose sides; not the side of those who love us, nor the side of those who hate you, but the Lord's side!

Series and Sermon: Vision in The Land of Giants: The Lord's Side (Called and Chosen)

“Called to the Lord's Side, Chosen for the Lord's Side, Standing on the Lord's Side”

I. Called to the Lord's Side

Joshua 5: ¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries?

Obtaining the Vision of God is about first accepting the Call of God. But unfortunately, too many people miss their call.

Matthew 20: ¹⁶ **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**

The reason why so many who are called miss their call is because the call is a call to war; not a call to love and happiness, ease and bliss, rest and peace but war!

In our lesson text, when Joshua lifted up his eyes, he saw the Angel of the Lord with his sword drawn in a position to fight.

Too many people go through life based on the wrong premise: choosing those who make them happy and becoming enemies to those who make them unhappy.

The problem with this premise is that depending on the day of the week or what side of the bed they wake up on, friends and enemies are constantly changing.

But the call to war is not about your side (those who may make you happy):

- Matthew 16: ²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**
- Luke 22: ⁴² Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

The call to war is also not about their side (those who make you unhappy):

- Matthew 5: ⁴³ **Ye have heard that it hath been said Thou shalt love thy neighbour and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say unto you Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you**

- Romans 12: ¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

We are not called to our side nor are we called to their side, but we are called to the Lord's Side.

II. Chosen for the Lord's Side

Joshua 5: ¹⁴ And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

The second key to obtaining the Vision of God is being Chosen of God. And there is a difference between being called and being chosen.

Matthew 20: ¹⁶ **So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.**

Even when people accept their call, some still do not become chosen. Why? Because they don't do what is necessary to prepare for war. They flunk out of bootcamp!

Once Joshua realized who was standing in front of him, and why he was standing there; he immediately went into war preparation by falling on his face (humility) and worshipping God (transformation).

2 Chronicles 7: ¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

War requires humility to God:

- 1 Peter 5: ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

War requires transformation for God:

- Romans 12: ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- Ephesians 6: ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

We are not chosen for our side nor are we chosen for their side, but we are chosen for the Lord's Side.

III. Standing on the Lord's Side

Joshua 5: ¹⁵ And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so.

Last week we told you to stand up because you are bigger than you know, bigger than your walls, and bigger than your giants.

- 1 John 4: ⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
- Romans 8: Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us
- Philippians 4: ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Now this week we're going to Stand on the Lord's Side because "It's Holy and It's Yours."

Stand Because It's Holy:

- Joshua 5: ¹⁵ ...Loose thy shoe from off thy foot for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy
- It's been set apart, set aside, separated, made Holy for God's use.
- Psalm 24: The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- It's Holy and belongs to God, the Giants are just holding it for us!
- Proverbs 13: ²² ... and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.

Stand Because It's Yours:

- Joshua 1: ³ Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.
- Deuteronomy 28: ² And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. ³ Blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and blessed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.
- Proverbs 10: ²² The blessing of the LORD it maketh rich and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Stand Because It's God's Promise:

- 2 Corinthians 1:20 (AV)²⁰ For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
- Hymnal: Standing on the promises of Christ, my King; Through eternal ages let his praises ring; Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.
- The Singer, Milton Brunson, put it this way: "Where do you stand? Who's on the Lord Side? I'm on, I'm on The Lord's Side."

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Lord's Side (Called and Chosen))

Lesson Text

- Joshua 5:13–15, Matthew 20:16

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Called to the Lord's Side*

II. *Chosen for the Lord's Side*

III. *Standing on the Lord's Side*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Is there a physical trait that you share with your family/relatives? If so, what is that trait?
2. Do you know the meaning of your first name or surname? Do you live up to that meaning? If you don't know the meaning, are you willing to find out?
 - i. The answer to last week's riddle is: the letter "e".

II. Into the Bible

1. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. What is the means God used to call us to himself? What is the basis of God's "giant" promises to us, described as "exceeding great and precious promises"? What are these promises?
2. Read 2 Peter 1:5-9. What do these verses instruct us to do once we have responded to God's call to glory and virtue?

III. Life Application

1. In the past, have you ever experienced a situation where you had to decide which side to be on? How did you respond? Would you change your decision if you had to choose today?
2. We explored Matt 20:16 in the sermon on Sunday about being called and being chosen. What is your calling and what action have you taken or will take to be chosen to obtain God's vision for your life?