Joshua 8:1-35 "Victory" (2/11/2024)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Joshua 8:1-35

1. Why do you think the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed" before giving him instructions regarding Ai? What do you imagine Joshua thought?

2. God's permission to take the spoils from Ai is ironic after the defeat of Jericho. If only Achan had waited (Joshua 7:20-21). Why is waiting upon the Lord and obedience so crucial? Why is waiting and obedience often so difficult?

3. From this passage, identify where it makes clear that victory was only accomplished because of the help of the LORD.

4. Compare and contrast the "great heap of stones" in Joshua 7:25-26 with 8:29. What principles do you find?

5. Discuss how Joshua complied with Moses' commands (Deuteronomy 27:1-8). Why would renewing the covenant be beneficial?

6. "...heeding God's word is more crucial than fighting God's war. By placing this covenant renewal ceremony here, the writer is saying that Israel's success does not primarily consist in knocking off Canaanites but in everyone's total submission to the word of God. It is as if he is saying, 'Stop the war and listen to the law of God; this is the most urgent matter right now.''' (Joshua: No Falling Words a Focus on the Bible series p. 74 by Dale Ralph Davis)

From what circumstances in your life do you need to pause and look at God's Word and remember what He has said?

7. To whom did Joshua read the Book of the Law in 8:35? What do you find noteworthy and applicable today?