

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

February 22, 2015 Joshua 5-7 by Bob Branch
Moving Into God's Best For You, part 4

BIG IDEA: As we get train and are equipped for God's purposes, there are rules of engagement we must learn and heed if we are to succeed. **God's will, God's way, will get God's results!**

"Are you for us or for our enemies?"

¹⁴ "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." **Joshua 5:13-15**

1. We must understand that we are part of **GOD'S LARGER PURPOSES**, not he part of ours!

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." **John 16:33**

² Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³ March around the city once with all the armed men... then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." **Joshua 6:1-5**

2. God-sized results and success follow doing things **GOD'S WAY!** *Only.*

¹We must know God's ways to do them.

²Hearing God's Spirit prompting us and obeying

³Hearing God through others

"See that you do not refuse him who is speaking."
Hebrews 12:25 ESV

¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them... ²⁰ When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city." **Joshua 6:15-20**

Q: *Are you doing things your way and hoping God will bless it?*

⁴ So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, ⁵ who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water. **Joshua 7:1-9**

¹⁰ The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? ¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. ¹² That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. **Joshua 7:10-12**

3. When we willingly disobey God's clear words there are **CONSEQUENCES**, which can extend well beyond ourselves.

"whatever one sows, that will he also reap." **Galatians 6:7** ^{ESV}

Q: *Where might our little private sins be hurting others?*

"A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."
Galatians 5:9

¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

²⁰ Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: ²¹ When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath." **Joshua 7:19-21**

"He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." **1 Peter 2:24** NLT (Romans 5:6-8)