Joshua Chapter 5 – April 27-May 2

**Monday – Day One**

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

**Melted Hearts, Loss of Courage – Read Joshua 5:1**

* Further reading: Numbers 13:25-29 records the reactions the first time Israel had seen this land.
* Why had the courage of the Amorites and the Canaanites melted away? (They heard about God’s power to stop the Jordan River.)
* Who prophesied the fear of these kings in a song in Exodus 15:1-18? (Moses)
* Psalm 97:5 uses the same Hebrew word translated “melt” our Bibles. What does this suggest about our own approach to God? (The thought of opposing God should produce a "melting" heart.)
* Such a reversal of roles in one verse compared to the first visit. And the key seems to be this people’s willingness to obey God. Have there been any times where God has shown you His power to change hearts and situations if you simply obeyed Him?

Pray today that God would make your heart soft to His leading and His Word.

**Tuesday – Day Two**

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

**The “What” of Jewish Surgery – Read Joshua 5:2-3**

* Further Reading: Genesis 17:1-13 tells of God’s establishment of the Abrahamic Covenant and circumcision as a sign of that covenant.
* Why did God ask Joshua to circumcise all the men of Israel? Read Exodus 12:48 and Joshua 5:10 for a clue. (God was calling the children of Israel to obedience. Over the past 40 years, they had grown away from God’s instruction, forgetting about the command and purpose of circumcision. Passover was coming and He needed them to obey what He had commanded in Exodus 12:48.)
* Has God asked you to do something and, though you may have obeyed for a while, that has now been forgotten or neglected?

Pray today that God would remind you of the areas in which you need to obey.

**Wednesday – Day Three**

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

**The “Why” of Jewish Surgery – Read Joshua 5:4-7**

* Further reading: Numbers 20:1-13, Numbers 27:14, and Deuteronomy 32:51-52 explains why only this generation was allowed to enter the Promised Land.
* This passage seems to emphasize that not only had an entire generation died in the wilderness, but all of the men of military age were no longer present. Why is God pointing this out? (That means no one entering the land had any real experience as a warrior. They would need God’s power to be victorious.)
* In another situation recorded in Judges 7, we see God making sure He’s the one that is given credit for the victory. Do you ever forget to give God the credit when good things happen in your life?

Pray that God will use your obedience to show His mighty power, even in your weakness.

**Thursday – Day Four**

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

**Faith Tested, Reproach Removed – Read Joshua 5:8-9**

* What does the word “reproach” mean? You can read more here: <http://biblehub.com/hebrew/2781.htm>
* Israel had marked themselves as God’s people by being circumcised before the first Passover in Egypt. Then they failed to act as God’s people or trust God throughout their desert journey. What happened in these verses to set that right? (Israel reaffirmed their devotion to God by following His commands.)
* How was this a remarkable act of faith? (This was an act of faith as well as obedience since they would be helpless to defend themselves while the men healed.)
* What does Colossians 2:11-14 say this sign of circumcision foreshadowed to us as New Testament Christians? (Putting off the old self.)

Pray today that we will walk away from our old sinful ways and live a life of newness in Christ.

**Friday – Day Five**

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

**The Passover – Read Joshua 5:10-12**

* This passage marks the celebration of the Passover for only the third time. (See Exodus 12:21-28, Numbers 9:1-4 for the other two.) Why was the circumcision not an issue for the second Passover? (It occurred only 2 years after the first.)
* Further Reading: Exodus 16:4 records the day manna began to sustain Israel.
* Manna was God’s special provision for His children in the desert. How would God provide for them now? What was the significance of the Manna stopping? (God had provided for them in the dessert, but now He would provide for them through the rich and fertile ground of the Promised Land.)
* Do you remember that God is providing for you every day in what you eat and drink and the shelter you have? Do you thank Him for that or has it become routine, like manna did for the Israelites?

Pray that you will sense and praise God for His provision in your daily life.

**Saturday – Day Six**

Prayer: Pray for God to unfold His word to you, for the Spirit to teach you and for Christ to shine His light and truth in your life.

**The Lord’s Call to Holiness – Read Joshua 5:13-15**

* How large is the army of the Lord when it is described later in 2 Kings 6:15-17? (The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha)
* Look up the terms Theophany and Christophany. Here’s a good discussion of these words: <http://www.gotquestions.org/theophany-Christophany.html>
* Whether this was Jesus or an angel is not clear, but the message was. What was that message? (You are standing on holy ground.)
* Why do you think Joshua needed to have this special message? (Perhaps God was reminding Joshua of how involved God’s armies would be in the upcoming battle, rather than Joshua’s armies. The commander of the armies of the Lord wasn’t even fighting “for” Israel. They were obedient and answerable only to God.)
* How is Joshua’s reaction correct, though perhaps surprising? (Joshua immediately knew his place and bowed down before the man. He removed his shoes in an act of submission and respect. This was also a position of vulnerability. Joshua was a warrior but he fell down and removed his shoes rendering him helpless to defend himself or to flee.)

Pray today that you will have a deeper sense of God’s holiness and His central role in your life.