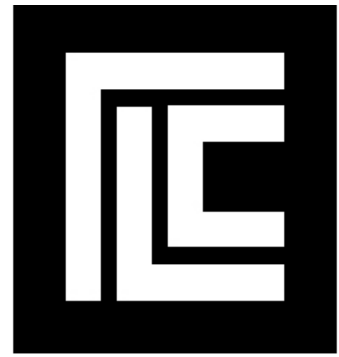


Joshua: Us or Our Enemies?

Feb. 6, 2021

Joshua 5:9-14



The existence of violence in the Bible is without question. The nature of God's activity in this violence can be confusing or troubling. In Joshua 5:9-14 a question is posed: "are you for us or our enemies?" This question and God's response reveals a few things: We are not God, God owns the whole world, and God loves His creation way more than we ever could.

Getting Started

"We don't talk about Bruno, no, no, no." What's something (serious or silly) that you or your family avoid talking about?

Read

Joshua 5:9-14

Digging Deeper

- The text above deals with God and violence. What side is God on? How have you processed questions related to God and violence (like the one posed in the text above) in the Bible?
- Of the four "unappealing realities" that this part of Joshua reveals, which was most eye-opening for you? Which was most difficult? For a quick refresh, here they are...
 1. If there is to be any justice, there are people who deserve destruction.
 2. A solution to the problem of violence in Joshua may not be possible.
 3. Other stories in Joshua reveal that "total destruction" was conditional.
 4. Joshua is part of an ancient genre of conquest narratives. Use of hyperbole was common.
- What does this quote below by Dr. R.L. Hubbard mean to you? How does it resonate with you and relate to your reading of Joshua?

"The reality is that the ancient and modern worlds are truly different, but, in a sense, our discomfort with (the violence in) Joshua is a good sign: it shows the depth with which the gospel has transformed us."



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