

Returning a favor

Going to arbitration

... finding the arbitrator who owed us

What if **God** is on our side?

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31

1

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, **“Are you for us or for our enemies?”**

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

The commander of the Lord’s army replied, **“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.”** And Joshua did so. *Joshua 5:13-15*

2

Good News in a Sovereign Savior

Luke 4:14-30

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3

Luke 4:14-30

14-15: Spirit-filled teaching brought praise

16-21: Radical claim: Jesus is God's Messiah

22: Positive response...

- with some uncertainty

23-30: Jesus' rebuke revealed they were self-seeking

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The Big Idea

Jesus is the **Good** and **Sovereign** God



Freedom

Release from troubles

God's favor



He sets the agenda

He decides who gets
what blessing when

5

The Big Idea

Jesus is the Good and Sovereign God

Fantastic blessings
come **as He decides**

to those who **submit** to His authority

- Sometimes He leads **into suffering**
- Sometimes He **blesses others more, or first, or instead of, or even by taking from us!!**
- As a **means** to bring His fantastic blessings

6

Imagine that we need urgent help

- Two options:
 - We hire a new **helper**
 - We hire a new **boss**
- What are some differences?
 - Who sets the agenda?
 - Who assigns the roles and tasks?

**Is becoming a follower of Jesus
more like getting a new helper
or getting a new boss?**

7

“Those who stand upon their rights and insist on preferential treatment are not likely to appreciate one who offers the chance to spend and be spent in the service of others and a Gospel which leaves no room for privilege.”

By confronting self-orientation, Jesus was leading them into their greatest joy!

8

What are Jesus' priorities?

- **The Father's glory**
 - That all people would know and rejoice in God
- **People's transformation**
 - Cause all His people to grow to be more like Jesus
- **NOT:**
 - make my life easier, richer, more successful...
 - help me and my people rise above others

9

Faithful people who encountered trouble

Job: Lost everything

“At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said:

“Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.

**The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised.”**

Job 1:20-21

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Faithful people who encountered trouble

Paul: “in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, **a messenger of Satan, to torment me**. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.**” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

11

Faithful people who encountered trouble

Jesus: Satan tempted Jesus by offering an easier path to glory than the hard path God gave to Jesus

→ Jesus didn’t give in at all

Peter told Jesus to take the easier road

Then “Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; **you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.**”” *Matthew 16:23*

12

Faithful people who encountered trouble

Disciples:

“Then [Jesus] said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. **For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.**” *Luke 9:23-24*

13

The People of Nazareth

- They wanted Jesus to give special treatment to them
- Jesus challenged them: what if God gives more blessings to those you don't love?
- In response, they rejected Jesus
 - **What if God's agenda is that other people are blessed now INSTEAD of us?**
 - **What if He rebukes and disciplines me for 'smaller sins' and seems to ignore 'bigger sins' in others?**

14

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come **as He decides**
to those who **submit** to His authority**

15

Application

Find joy in Jesus

Submit to Jesus

As one thing

- God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are committed to work all things together for our good!
 - Freedom and joy through knowing God and becoming more like Him
- He wants to transform us rather than settle us into a comfortable place

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The Big Idea

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**Fantastic blessings
come as He decides
to those who submit to His authority**