

## Aligning with the Lord

**Scripture:** Joshua 5:13-15

**Joshua 5:13-14 NIV** 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?"<sup>14</sup> "**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?"<sup>15</sup> 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.

### Introduction

Joshua here has an encounter with the pre-incarnate Christ ... the Angel of the Lord. When asked if He is for the Israelites or their enemies, the Angel replies, "Neither."

### I. The Captain didn't come to bless Joshua's plan

**Joshua 5:14a NIV** "Neither,"

- A. We often try to figure out how God will do things
- B. We develop our own plan and execute it
  1. Abraham and Hagar
- C. Trying to impose our plan upon the Lord can have disastrous results
  1. Moses striking the rock the second time
  2. Naaman about dipping in the Jordan

### II. God is already working His plan

**Joshua 5:14b NIV** he replied, "**but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.**"

- A. The Captain didn't come to work someone else's plan
- B. The Captain came with a specific plan in mind
  1. March silently around the walls once each day for six days
  2. On the seventh day, march around the walls seven times
  3. Blow the trumpet and leave the rest to Me
- C. Notice that this plan doesn't make a lot of military sense

### III. Aligning ourselves with God's plan

**Joshua 5:15 NIV** 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.

- A. Acknowledge that He is Commander in Chief
- B. Discern His plan – Listen to ALL His instructions
- C. Act in total obedience to His instructions