."The Benefits of Obedience"

Joshua 11

11-22-15

1. Pastor Jim relayed the truth that "obedience always means victory," and that the details of our stories might be different, but in every victory "obedience is the key." As a group, think of other scriptural examples of this truth. (See Eph. 6:1-3, Col 3:22, Heb. 13:17, 1 Peter 4:16-17)

2. Pastor Jim's second point is that obedience is shaped by God's promises. Think of someone, biblically or in your life, who has given up a standard of living simply to throw themselves on the truth of God's promises. How does that testimony encourage you to obey?

3. Pastor Jim pointed out that Joshua hamstrung the horses and burned the chariots at God's command. Wouldn't keeping these war horses and chariots strengthen the army? Yes, but could possibly have caused Israel to believe that their strength was in horses and chariots and not the Lord (Psalm 20:7). How does this truth help give perspective in thinking and praying for Grace Beyond? Are there ways God has asked you to disable yourself from power in order to remain clearly dependent on His protection?

4. Most of us would agree that if we heard a direct word from the Lord, we would instantly obey. However, Pastor Jim showed us that even though Joshua heard directly regarding Jericho, he heard the rest of his instructions through words that were passed to Moses. What leadership has God placed in your life that you are struggling with? How would submitting and obeying to the leadership in your life help you? (see Rom 13:1-5)

5. Is there something you have asked the Lord for countless times and you doubt that your obedience is tied to victory? Read Psalm 40 with a particular emphasis on verse 7-8.

6. If in reading Psalm 40 you feel the Lord softening you to something you had previously cut Him off from, take a few moments to speak with Him silently…. "If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart."

7. Please take a few moments to talk about the peace you have experienced or are experiencing through obedience.