

# DRESS LIKE A WINNER!

## LIVING IN THE LAND #5

**Introduction:** How to defeat strongholds while living in occupied territory



- Israelites were in occupied territory, and so are we.
- It's a tale of two cities – or two strongholds.
- THE FIRST CITY IS Jericho
  - In theory, Jericho was the strongest.



### 1. Join Up!

- Israelites were unified by male circumcision.

**Joshua 5:8-9** *And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal ("roll) to this day.*

- Circumcision gave both physical and spiritual identity
  - Rolled away the reproach of Egypt (practise had lapsed)
- Today – we are baptised into Christ
  - Reproach from past life left in the water.

**Joshua 5:10** *On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.*

- They celebrated the Passover.
  - Today, we celebrate the Lord's Supper
- Confirmation: Promise highlighted, special encounter

**ILLUSTRATION:** Joshua meets the Commander of the Lord

- The battle is not just Joshua's



**Joshua 6:2** See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men...

- Unity displayed – marched together around Jericho
- Shout of agreement that broke the stronghold's power.
- There was agreement / unity between God, the leaders and the people.

## 2. Wise Up!

- The second city is Ai – not as fortified.

BACKGROUND: Joshua 7

- The battle (7:1-5)
- The problem

**Joshua 7:10** The Lord said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?”

- Get up, & sort out the problem.
- Stealing, lying and coverup

**Joshua 6:19** All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord, and must go into His treasury.

- Spoils belong to the Lord

**Joshua 7:12(b)** I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

- What are we devoted to?

## 3. Wake Up

- Paul addressing Christians in Rome:

**Romans 13:11** And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

- Signs of persecution had begun
- Understand the present time.

**Romans 13:5-7** *Therefore, it is necessary to submit to authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.*

- Submit to authority
- Pay debts
- Pay taxes
- Give respect and honour where it is due.

#### 4. Dress Up.

ILLUSTRATION: DIFFERENT TYPES OF CLOTHES AND WHAT THEY SIGNIFY.



- THE Bible talks about:
- (a) Clothing yourself with love (Colossians 3:14)

**Romans 13:10** *Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

(b) Put on the armour of Light

**Romans 13:12** *So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of Light.*

- If light is shining, you won't easily fall into the dark
  - Dark is described as:
    - Orgies and drunkenness
    - Sexual immorality
    - Dissension and jealousy
  - Armour is something the arrows of temptation bounce off.
- What you wear is important!
  - Achan's confession:

**Joshua 7:21** *When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.*

- Spoils of war were devoted to destruction or redeemed for God
- Robe from Babylonia was a symbol of power and prestige.
  - The wearer would be associated with an anti-god culture
  - It was destined for destruction.

**Romans 13:14** *Rather, clothe yourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*