



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Three Moments of Encounter

**SPEAKER** Rev. Paul Jeyachandran

**THEME** Experiencing God

**DATE** 22 & 23 February 2025

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Reverend Paul Jeyachandran introduces his sermon anchored on Joshua 5:1-12. The book of Joshua can be broken down into five parts: Commission, Crossing Over, Consecration, Conquest and Covenant. Joshua 5:1-12 is found in the “Consecration” portion of the book. This is important because the guiding principle of this week’s sermon is: Consecration comes before Conquest.

## The Three Key Moments of Encounter

The three ways which God consecrated the lives of the people before they continued their conquest into Canaan relates to three moments of encountering God as follows:

### 1) The Moment of Trust (Circumcision)

Joshua and the Israelites were commanded by God to be circumcised as a war was taking place. In terms of timing and strategy, this seems extremely counter-intuitive as the fighting aged men would be out of commission and need a significant time to recover. But Joshua obeyed as commanded, displaying the trust he placed in God.

In our own lives, there may be times when it doesn’t feel like the right time, right place, or the right people but we have to obey the commands we have received from God regardless. He has His purposes that we are not privy to. Sometimes, God is just asking us to trust Him in everything. He wants us to have the right posture in our hearts. We must trust and obey, there is no other way.

## 2) The Moment of Thanksgiving (Passover)

Despite camping right outside the enemy's territory, the Israelites still kept and celebrated the Passover, a celebration of the Israelites' liberation from their slavery in Egypt. It is also a celebration to remember God's grace demonstrated to the people. They were delivered by God, but the blood of an innocent lamb had to be sacrificed for this to happen. Similarly, Christ's blood was spilled on the cross and He gave His life for us so that we may receive God's grace and mercy. His innocent blood was spilled so the guilty may go free. It is a reminder for us that God's grace is not to be taken for granted.

## 3) The Moment of Truth (Manna)

Manna was God's provided sustenance for the Israelites in the wilderness. For as long as they needed food, God provided the manna through miraculous means. Rain or shine, the manna fell and that fed them. This all stopped when they began to eat the produce of the land in Canaan. They no longer had a need for the miraculous manna, but that does not mean God stopped providing. The very produce and fertile land they harvested from was also God's provision. This shows that God will always love and bless us, but His methods may change. God's character is eternal, but His instruments are not. We should not fall in love with the methods God uses, but to always remember His faithfulness.

## CONCLUSION

Every aspect of consecration that we have in the present day is found in Jesus. Before we can do anything noteworthy, we must first accept the grace of the Lord Jesus and be consecrated like Joshua and the Israelites before we can set forth on any righteous conquest. The first step of the born-again Christian life is to dedicate it wholly to Jesus.

# QUESTIONS

1. Which moment of encounter (trust, thanksgiving, truth) stands out to you personally? Why?

2. What aspect of your life is God asking you to consecrate today? Is there a "reproach of Egypt" in your life?

3. What season are you currently in? Is it a season of miracles and/or blessing or trials and challenges? Through it all, how is God leading you to encounter Him in this season?