Joshua 5:13 (English Standard Version)

13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

"Now" ~ Certainly we're ready to go now, right?

Two ways to look at "now"

1. What's happening now?

The dilemma of confidence and doubt side by side

Private doubts and fears and concerns

2. Now- let's go!

Is the clock our lord? Or the calendar?

Are our desires and lusts and impulses our lords?

I'm in a hurry, but God isn't

- A man with a sword; who is this?
- An angel with a sword in his hand; what's happening?
- 1. Judgement is coming
- 2. Salvation is coming
- We must bring our loved ones to him and ask him to cut them, to wound them, so they can live! (Deut. 32:39)
Joshua asks the question we'd all ask, “Whose side are you on?”

We do this too!

We knee-jerk respond to all hardships and we say, "God, how can you help me?” Because we assume God is as concerned with our frivolous emotions as we are.
Joshua 5:14 (English Standard Version)

14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?"
The answer is stunning ~ "Neither”

The angel from the Lord with a sword at the battle...isn't on either side!

This is THE Angel of the Lord ~ and it all clicks for Joshua this is Christ before He came in the flesh

God has come at their time of need ~ but, as usual, He's not as interested in their victory as He is in their faith

- There are several lessons to be learned from the Lord's presence at the battlefield
- 1. Be on God's side
- We spend a lot of energy and emotional equity fighting
- Are we with God in His fights?
- 2. My life is God's business
- God shows up to announce that this is all His
- “This is holy ground”
- There is no sacred or secular when we're obedient and prepared
- My life is God's business ~ Am I participating in it?

3. Who can fight the Lord?
Who can stand against the Lord and his drawn sword?
Enemies of God (unrepentant, unregenerate sinners) ~ Why fight?
Put down your swords and cry out for mercy!
Are you fighting the Lord?
The cross of Christ is now His sword and it both redeems and condemns
4. Be a Joshua
Only Joshua saw this
God comes to and communes with those who are watching and ready for battle
Align with the Spirit and His motives and plans

- Whose side are you on?
- Are you fighting the Lord?
- Be a Joshua