



2013

Something To SHOUT About!

The hard, long, stubborn, grinding, contentious year of 2012 is gone! And we shouted in a brand new year with fireworks, music, partying and noise. **What do you hear our culture shouting this New Year? Why? What are a couple of things you would be excited to shout about? Why?**

(Joshua 6:1-20) God had miraculously saved 2.5 million of His people out of a brutal 400 years of slavery in Egypt. Then for 40 years He had personally led, fed, loved, protected and cared for each of them during their time in the wilderness. They had just miraculously crossed over the flooded Jordan River and were starting a brand new season of life (a new year) in the rich, beautiful land God had promised. To lead His people He commissions Joshua, who had been Moses' faithful general and servant (1:1-5). He chose Joshua because he was a man who feared the Lord, respected His authority and trusted His plans with all his heart. You see, Jericho was a very small city (8 acres or 6 football fields) with about total 2000 people (500 soldiers). Israel had 2.5 million people with a standing army of 600,000 (1200:1). When God wants to do something totally awesome He calls an **improbable man**, assigns him an **impossible task**, gives him an **immediate obstacle** to overcome with seemingly **inadequate resources**, and then asks him to accomplish it using what most would describe as an **insane method**! What did God ask Joshua to do and why? If you were Joshua what would have been your natural tendency with such overwhelming military might? Why does God call us first to be faithful in a little thing before asking us to succeed at a big thing? What would you be feeling if God gave you a similar assignment? What are your thoughts/feelings about some of the difficult things God has asked you to do as a man, husband, father and leader?

Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things." Jeremiah 9:23-24

God's New Year Plan to Build A New Man

God wants to give us something to celebrate & shout about! So, here are 5 very practical things you can do to shout with joy during this new year of 2013!

S _____ in an environment of noise/activity (10-11; Ps 46:10)

H _____ in a culture of pride (3-9; Proverbs 16:18; I Peter 5:5-7)

O _____ in a world of "why" (16-18; Hebrews 5:8; John 14:21)

U _____ in an era of confusion (20; Prov 9:10; Josh 7)

T _____ in a day of skepticism (2, Prov 3:5-6; Hebrews 11:30)

TAG TEAM DISCUSSION **1** Which of these lessons will most likely be the one God teaches you this year? Why? **2** How can you be silent before God in order to listen? **3** Where are you trying to proudly live your life apart from God? **4** Are you asking "why" instead of being obedient? **5** Where are you most confused about God's character? **6** How do you need to learn to trust God more?



Peter finds his faith to be a lot stronger in the winter!