

Title: Bully or Bullied? – Joshua 10 1-8

Read:

¹⁻² It wasn't long before My-Master-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and destroyed it and its king under a holy curse, just as he had done to Jericho and its king. He also learned that the people of Gibeon had come to terms with Israel and were living as neighbours. He and his people were alarmed: Gibeon was a big city—as big as any with a king and bigger than Ai—and all its men were seasoned fighters. ³⁻⁴ Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon: "Come and help me. Let's attack Gibeon; they've joined up with Joshua and the People of Israel." ⁵ So the five Amorite (Western) kings—the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon—combined their armies and set out to attack Gibeon. ⁶ The men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua camped at Gilgal, "Don't let us down now! Come up here quickly! Save us! Help us! All the Amorite kings who live up in the hills have ganged up on us." ⁷⁻⁸ So Joshua set out from Gilgal, his whole army with him—all those tough soldiers! God told him, "Don't give them a second thought. I've put them under your thumb—not one of them will stand up to you."

Think:

From what I can see Gods not a fan of people ganging up together to pick on a weaker person. He wasn't a fan all those years ago, of countries ganging up against smaller countries and he's not a fan today. It doesn't have to be big countries either, Gods not a fan of a group of individuals bullying a single person or a weaker group either. I was bullied at school and I know the despair it can drive young people to. It can drive them to consider doing things that are not what God has planned for their live's. It can make them start to believe lies, like they are not worth anything. These are not truths coming from God, but lies coming from the world. Just as God promised Joshua, he would help defend those who were outnumbered, God wants to protect those who are bullied. The truth is that God loves the bullied and that the bullied are worth a great deal. The bullied need to know that God does not want the them take it anymore, it's time to find someone to help and make it stop. It's time to seek out the Joshua in your life and find the answer that God has for you. But they are not alone, the bullies need to know that God does not want them to bully anymore. They are worth more to God than the identity they find in the bullying they do. It's time to stop, it's time to be the Joshua in other peoples lives. Bully or Bullied it's time to be Joshua and make it stop.

Pray:

Father it is so hard to change things that are not good for me. Please give me the strength to find someone to help and change the direction of my life. Amen.

Action:

If today's dev means anything to you, take action today. If you bully, find someone who can help you stop. If you are being bullied, find someone away from where it is happening and ask them for help. Do it now.