

Title: No Vigilante – Joshua 10 16-27

Read:

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ Meanwhile the five kings had hidden in the cave at Makkedah. Joshua was told, "The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah." ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Joshua said, "Roll big stones against the mouth of the cave and post guards to keep watch. But don't you hang around—go after your enemies. Cut off their retreat. Don't let them back into their cities. God has given them to you." ²⁰⁻²¹ Joshua and the People of Israel then finished them off, total devastation. Only a few got away to the fortified towns. The whole army then returned intact to the camp and to Joshua at Makkedah. There was no criticism that day from the People of Israel! ²² Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring me those five kings." ²³ They did it. They brought him the five kings from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. ²⁴ When they had them all there in front of Joshua, he called up the army and told the field commanders who had been with him, "Come here. Put your feet on the necks of these kings." They stepped up and put their feet on their necks. ²⁵ Joshua told them, "Don't hold back. Don't be timid. Be strong! Be confident! This is what God will do to all your enemies when you fight them." ²⁶⁻²⁷ Then Joshua struck and killed the kings. He hung them on five trees where they remained until evening. At sunset Joshua gave the command. They took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden. They put large stones at the mouth of the cave. The kings are still in there.

Think:

We have talked before about the fact that there are consequences to our actions. These five kings ganged up on a weaker neighbour and God was not happy about that. God used Joshua to carry out his judgment on these five kings. Lets be clear about one thing, this is not the norm. In other places, God reminds us that he is the one who will judge and that we should leave revenge to him. However what we can learn from Joshua's actions is that we should help the weak and defenceless. It's right to help those who can not defend themselves at school. It's right to defend countries that can not defend themselves. But in both cases, we had better understand our motives. If we choose one side to help at school, because we dislike the other side, then we have missed the point. If we help one country because we have something to gain, whilst we ignore other countries, then once again we have missed the point. It's tough to be consistent in our actions but that is what we must try to do, when we are defending the weak. We must also be clever about the way we defend them. We probably don't need to charge in and start punching the bullies at school. In the same way, war must be our last choice, when defending other countries. Comparing war to bullies at school might seem a bit daft, but if you and I can work out how God would have us deal with bullies at school, then maybe as we grow we will also manage bullying countries better too.

Pray:

Father we lift the weak to you. For all those around the world and in schools and colleges that can not help themselves please provide someone to help. Amen.

Action:

The problem with praying that prayer is that you might be Gods answer. Is there someone who needs your help now? Think about it. Bye.