November 1, 2026
Deuteronomy 20

JUST WAR

THE CALL TO WAR AND THE RULES OF WARFARE

Sermon Questions

1. The central cry of God to his people is: "You shall not be _____."
2. Why must Israel not fear horses, chariots, and greater numbers?
    i. Because the Lord their God is with them and fights for them.
    ii. Because they have better weapons and the higher ground.
    iii. Because the Canaanites will flee before Israel arrives.
3. Exodus 15:3 says, "The LORD is a man of _____; the LORD is his name."
4. Since God fights for them, it does not matter whether they fight for victory. (Yes/No)
5. List the three reasons a man could be sent home: A new _____ / a new _____ / a new _____
6. One fights not because he hates what's in front of him, but because he _____ what's behind him.
7. The fearful and fainthearted are sent home lest they make others _____.
8. Strength of numbers matter more to God than loyalty and faithfulness. (True/False)
9. Before besieging a city not devoted to destruction, Israel must offer terms of _____.
10. "Devoted to destruction" meant ethnic cleansing. (True/False)[1]
11. Verses 19–20 forbid cutting down _____.
12. Just war theory includes the following biblically derived principles: (circle all that apply)

A properly constituted authority.	War as last resort.	Just cause.
Probability of success.	Proportionality.	Discrimination.

13. What passage in the NT contains our preparation for war? _____
14. Our Christian battle seeks _____ rather than conquering.

[1] See https://www.fairviewbaptistchurch.ca/sermons/devoted-to-destruction-gods-sovereign-hand-in-judgment/

Discussion Questions

1. Israel must not fear because the Lord goes with them to fight (vv. 1–4). Where do the "chariots" of our day make you shrink back from gospel courage and speaking of Christ, and how does Christ's promise to be with us change that?

2. Exemptions for a new house, vineyard, and wife remind Israel they fight for family and livelihood under God. What has God placed "behind" you that is worth faithful defense, and how should that love shape courage without hatred?

3. The sermon drew just-war principles from this chapter—authority, just cause, last resort, discrimination, proportionality. How do these restrain both pacifism and unrestrained force? Where do we need clearer Christian thinking today?

4. Our primary battle seeks conversion, not conquering, with the sword of the Spirit. Where are you tempted to shrink back from that fight for souls, and what would faithful going look like this week as Christ fights for us?

5. What was your most significant take-away from this passage and sermon?

Discussion Questions for Children

1. God told his people not to be afraid because he was with them. When do you feel afraid, and how does knowing Jesus is with you help you be brave?

2. Our job is not to conquer people but to tell them about Jesus so they can make peace with God. Who can you pray for or kindly tell about Jesus this week?