



Joshua and Judges The Moral Problem of Conquest

Interpreting the Text:

1. Has the way you read and understand the Book of Joshua changed over the course of this study? If so, how?
2. If the historical conquest never happened, how can we understand why this story exists? Does the fact that the conquest may never have happened impact the moral implications of this text in any way?
3. Does the story of conquest in Joshua in any way undermine the story of liberation in Exodus? Is it possible to hold these two seemingly opposing stories together in tension as part of the same sacred canon?

Applying the Text:

1. Has this discussion shifted your understanding of “biblical values?” If yes, how? If not, why?
2. Do you think that some biblical texts are simply inexcusable? Why or why not? How do you wrestle with their position in the scriptural canon?
3. How does this study of Joshua affect how you will read or share about incidents of divinely sanctioned violence in other texts?