

20180311 Joshua series part 5: "And the walls came tumbling down!"

Text: Joshua 5:13-6:5

The children of Israel have moved from the wilderness of worry towards the promised land. The journey of life as a Christian is all about learning to walk in the Spirit and obedience to God.

The first city they come to after crossing Jordan is Jericho, considered the greatest walled fortress of all time. From a human perspective it was considered an unconquerable city.

And each of us have a walled city in our lives. A place of hopeless defeat we don't think we can conquer. A barrier that stands in our way and it seems to give up on that one is the only way to view it.

What is your Jericho?

Maybe it is a sin that seems to haunt you and you can't seem to get the victory. The devil uses it on you time and again because it works so well on you. For others it might be an unhealthy attitude. Maybe you were genuinely done wrong by someone, but now your heart has bitterness toward them and it is eating at you from the inside out. You can't seem to let go of that grudge. What is your Jericho? The enemy wants to erect a fortress around your personal success...but don't let Him keep you from entering in to the blessed Christian life God has planned for you.

When you come to your Jericho, you have only two choices: run from it or face it. To flee, there's only one place to go...back into the wilderness. And that should not be an option. We must face our Jericho, and we're going to have to do it God's way, because humanly speaking it may be true, that there's no way I can get past this!

Hebrews 11:30 "By faith..." Victory over Jericho came only by faith.

"Victory is not achieved through fighting...it is received through faith!"

When God has a big job to do He always uses faith as the tool.

1 John 5:4

1. The object of Faith.

5:13-14a Joshua is out in the field surveying the situation. He looks up at those high walls of Jericho, and no doubt trying to strategize as the general of this army. He turned around to see a man who came out of nowhere.

Joshua asks the first logical question: Are you for us or them? The man gives a unique answer: No.

Who is this mysterious character? None other than the Lord Jesus Christ making an appearance in the OT.

Here's a valuable lesson: We should stop trying to get God on our side, and we should get on God's side! When we do so our Jericho is no longer our problem...it's God's problem...and that's no problem!

When you realize that you cannot get victory over that stubborn sin in your life you are in a great position to give it to the Lord and to see victory happen through Christ by faith!

LET GO AND LET GOD!

Before we can be a conqueror we must first be conquered ourselves.

Joshua was out looking at the problem...those enormous, impossible walls. But now he's face to face with God. He's looking at the right object now. Looking at the walls led to fear. Looking at God led him to faith. Faith is only as good as its object. Get your eyes off the problem and keep your eyes on the Lord.

Fear is looking at God through your problems. Faith is looking at your problems through God!

No doubt some here are still waiting for their walls to fall but God won't do it because He's waiting for you to get to the place where you say God I can't do it, it's bigger than I am, but you are bigger than it is! It's all about perspective.

The Christian life isn't just hard...it's impossible! So, stop trying and start trusting. Allow God to give you an attitude adjustment and you're in a great position to see with your own eyes the walls of your Jericho fall down flat!

2. Obedient Faith.

6:1-5 What strange instructions!

God was testing their obedience. It's easy to say you have faith, but you SHOW it through obeying whatever God says, whether it makes sense to you or not.

Obey God even when it doesn't make sense.

Much of what the Bible tells us is contrary to human logic and reasoning. It's not our job to understand it all, it's our job to undertake obedience.

"The Bible is not a book to be explained as much as a book to be obeyed."

1 Corinthians 1:18

1 Corinthians 4:10

3. Continual Faith.

6:13-20 It's graduation time. Will they do as they have been told? Their faith and perseverance are being tested here. Each day for 6 days they would make their circular trek and nothing would happen. After 6 days they are told 'today's the day!' ... but as they went around on that 7th day again nothing happened. Then they are told to go around again and again as if they need to keep trying.

'Waiting time' is not wasting time. God's delays are not necessarily denials.

I'm so glad these people didn't give up and lose their faith as they walked around in circles around Jericho. Because just when God willed it...the wall fell down flat!

Conquering our battles will always be about you and me being able to balance faith and deeds.

Faith in God and Acting out obedience. That will bring your walls down!

Meditate and work on:

- **Taking your eyes off your problems and fixing them upon God.**
- **Obeying God even when it doesn't make sense.**
- **Not quitting. Keeping the faith. Waiting on the Lord for the victory.!**