

Joshua and the Conquest of Jericho

TEXT: Joshua 5:13-6:27

INTRODUCTION: Jericho was a city near the Dead Sea and the Jordan River. As the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River, they came first to the city of Jericho. They would not be able to go any further into the Promised Land unless they went through Jericho. They knew. God knew it. Jericho would be a city specifically cursed by the Lord. The Jews were to conquer the city, but they were not to take any of the possessions of the city for themselves. However, the city had huge walls. The border of the city was actually two huge walls, one inside the other. The walls were so thick that six horses and a chariot could travel along the top of the walls. Houses were built into and between the walls, and many people, such as Rahab the harlot, lived in these houses. God commanded Joshua and Israel conquer this city. Bear in mind, they had no army. They had been in the wilderness for forty years. They simply had God's command to take the city, and God gave it to them in a miraculous way. How could an untrained band of wilderness wandering travelers defeat a well-armed army in a fortified city? It happened because....

I. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD'S COMMANDER

- A. The people knew God put Joshua in charge – They had all seen when God met with Moses and Joshua and turned over the leadership of the nation from Moses to Joshua. There could be no doubt as to the leadership of the nation.
- B. The people saw the Jordan River part just like the Red Sea – This was a new generation, but they all knew the story of coming out of Egypt and Moses lifting the rod of God. They all knew their parents had walked across that great body of water on dry ground. Now, in their sight, they watch as Joshua commanded the priests to step into the rushing water of the Jordan as it overflowed its banks. They all saw the water stop rushing and stand up “in a heap” on top of itself. They all walked across the Jordan on dry ground.
- C. The people knew Joshua had met with the Lord. The people saw Joshua, their commander in chief go to scout out the city. As he walked quietly toward Jericho, he saw “*a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand.*” To Joshua, the man obviously

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looked like a soldier. In reality, He was “*captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?*” As the man accepted the worship of Joshua, Joshua and the people realized that Joshua was getting his marching orders directly from the Lord.

- D. The people knew they needed to follow Joshua – *Joshua 6:2 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.”* He was the leader and they knew it. He had met with the Lord and they knew it. . It is important that God’s people follow the captain that God has given them. It is even more important that their captain follow the Captain of the host of the Lord.

II. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD’S METHODS

- A. The security around the city was obvious – *Joshua 6:1 “Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.”* In other words, the city was locked up tighter than a drum. The king knew this huge mass of people, Israel, had just moved in next door. He wasn’t going to even think about giving them an opening. One of the problems we allow in our lives is that we constantly let things or people into our lives that want too cause us hurt and problems. We need to beware of that and shut the doors on those people; give ourselves some security.
- B. The supervision of the Lord was clear – Joshua got his commands directly from the Lord. He gave those same orders to the people. The people knew that their orders came from God and they were sold out on obedience to those orders. Understand, these orders were really unusual. Walk around the city once a day in silence for six days. On the seventh day, walk around the city seven times silently, then shout and blow the trumpets. When you do the walls will fall down. These walls were huge! Remember, there was a six lane freeway on top of theses wall. It was impossible that they would just collapse, yet that is what God says will happen! These are probably the strangest orders any army ever received, yet, the

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people obey! They trusted God's methods, even though they didn't really know how God would do it. We often find the same thing in our lives. We have to trust God, even when we don't fully understand His methods.

III. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD'S POWER

- A. Joshua put the things of God in the proper order. Joshua 6:6 "And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." The ark of the Lord represented the glory of God. In the Tabernacle, the shekinah glory of God would rest upon. The ark went before the people and it was significant of God's leadership of the people. Would that we would give the things of God, and God's leadership priority in our lives.
- B. The ark of God held the law of God. The tablets of stone on which were written the ten commandments that God gave to Moses were inside the ark of the covenant. God wants us to follow the Word of God. No victories can be won without the Word of God. The same is true today. God has given us His Word, and He expects us to follow it. We will never really experience the victory God wants us to have without His Word.
- C. The ark of God held the golden pot of manna. This was the same manna that fell from Heaven every morning for the food. God gave it to the Jews to eat. Every morning they would pick up enough manna for that day. They could not pick up enough for two days, or the second day's provision would spoil. However, on the day before the Sabbath, they could pick up provisions for two days because God did not want them to do the work on the Sabbath. In the ark of the covenant was this golden pot of manna. God is saying to His people that if we will use His Word, follow His glory, and use His methods, He will provide for our needs. Here is a constant reminder to the people of God. Out in front of them God is saying, "I will supply all of your needs if you will fight My battles, use My Word, and do My will." It is a comfort and a blessing that we have a God who provides.

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D. The ark of God held Aaron's rod that budded. In Numbers, we read that Korah and others challenged the authority of Moses and Aaron. In response to this rebellion there was a contest to see which rod among these men would bud, bear flowers. Only Aarons' rod budded. God had him to put his rod down and this rod actually grew almond buds. There is so much here. First, the leaders of God's people hold authority by the grace and power of God. For us to challenge that authority is rebellion against the man of God and God Himself. Korah and the others died because they rebelled. Next, these rods were dead sticks. For the rod to bud, it was God making life from that which is dead. In other words, it is a picture of what God does for us because we are dead in sin, but alive in Christ. It also pictures our future resurrection. Once again God was reminding them of His power and His blessing.

IV. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD'S VICTORY

- A. They exactly followed the Lord's instructions. Joshua 6:14-15 "And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times."
- B. They shouted. Joshua 6:16 "And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city." You can imagine they were ready to shout! For six days they had been walking around the city in silence for 6 days. The anticipation must have been building. When Joshua said shout, they let loose! They shouted for all they were worth.
- C. God gave them the victory. Joshua 6:20 "So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city." As they obeyed the Lord, God gave them an impossible victory! The walls of Jericho fell down flat. Israel

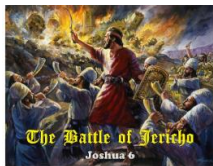
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marched right in. Jericho's army was trapped under the walls. Israel took the city with no resistance because God gave them the victory!

CONCLUSION: What does that mean for you and me in a real and practical way? First, we are not smarter than the Lord. God's methods work and we should use God's methods. Next, when God looks for us to do something, God will supply us with what we need to accomplish the task He gives us. We need to trust that He will supply our needs. Add in this factor, when it looks impossible to us, remember it is not impossible for God. Often, we miss the impossible because we stopped believing that God can do the supernatural. Help thou Lord my unbelief. We also should have faith in the pastor and spiritual leaders. God has put them here and we should realize that, at that time, they are anointed of God within the ministry. Let's also make a point to spend some time with God. See the "Unseen Captain" before you go forward. When we get that time with Him, maybe we will always do it the way God says to do it. Follow His Word. Never doubt Him. Forgetting those things which are behind, make a point to always go forward. Remember, give God everything you have, and God will give the victory.

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Notes On This Lesson



JOSHUA AND THE BATTLE OF JERICHO

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- B. The people saw the Jordan River part just like the _____
- C. The people knew _____ had met with the Lord
- D. The people knew they needed to _____ Joshua

II. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD'S METHODS

- A. The _____ around the city was obvious
- B. The _____ of the Lord was clear

III. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD'S POWER

- A. Joshua put the things of God in the proper _____
- B. The ark of God held the _____ of God
- C. The ark of God held the golden pot of _____
- D. The ark of God held Aaron's _____ that _____

IV. THEY HAD FAITH IN GOD'S VICTORY

- A. They _____ followed the Lord's instructions
- B. They _____
- C. God gave them the _____

CONCLUSION: Let's make a point to spend some time with God. See the "Unseen Captain." When we get time with Him, maybe we will always do it God's way. Follow His Word. Never doubt Him. Forgetting those things which are behind, make a point to always go forward. Remember, give God everything you have, and God will give the victory.