

## “The Battle of Jericho – Watching the Walls Crumble” Joshua 6

### Open: Story

- The fear of the inhabitants of Jericho. **vs. 1**
  - The inhabitants of Jericho had been afraid of the Israelites ever since they heard Israel was headed their direction. This shows us God’s preparation for His people to have victory. . **Joshua 2:9-10**
- The final instructions to the children of Israel. **vs. 2-11**
  - God instructed the Israelites to go around the city one time each day for 6 days and on the seventh day they were to go around the city seven times.
  - On the seventh day when the people heard the blowing of the ram’s horns and trumpets, the people were to shout and the walls of the city would fall down.
  - The children of Israel were not to shout, make any noise, nor have any words to be spoken until they were instructed, by Joshua, to shout.
- The fulfilment of the instructions by the children of Israel. **vs. 12-15**
  - The Children of Israel did exactly as Joshua had commanded them.
- The forbidden iniquity of Jericho. **vs. 16-19**
  - Before victory was granted, instruction was given to the Israelites that the spoils of this city were not for the people but were to be given to God.
- The felling of the walls. **vs. 20-21**
  - The people shouted as the priests blew the trumpets and God leveled the city.
- The finalization of the destruction of Jericho. **vs. 22-25**
  - God, as promised, preserve the life of Rahab for assisting in the protection of the 2 spies.
  - It is interesting to note that a kind deed did not go unnoticed; but God did not permit Jericho’s lifestyle to influence His people through fellowship. **vs. 23**
    - Rahab would be separated from Israel, but only for a time of purification. She would eventually marry Salmon, a prince of Judah, who would give birth to Boaz; and through this line the Saviour would be born.
    - This is a beautiful picture to all that God could, and was willing to, graft into the faith anyone who would believe. **II Peter 3:9** *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*
  - As instructed, after burning the city with fire, the Israelites took the spoils of Jericho and put them into the treasury of the house of the Lord. **Acts 10:14-15** *“But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. [15] And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.”*
    - The filth of the lifestyle of the inhabitants of Jericho was purified by the obedience of God’s people.
    - Through the obedience of God’s people, God and His work can receive glory, honour and blessings; but man can not purify the filth of the world on his own.

## **I. Lesson #1: The conflict between man's plan and God's will.**

- A. **The Conflict of Good vs. Evil:** Just as Jericho knew that destruction was coming and still fortified themselves to win (**vs. 1**), the same is true for those who are knowledgeable of what God says and still decide to do their own thing. **Job 15:25** *“For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty.”*
- i. We cannot stand in the way of God's will being accomplished. We can either enjoy the blessings of being a part of God's completed will or be destroyed because we were not obedient.
  - ii. We cannot get God's results using our own methods. We either live life God's way and receive the blessings or live life our own way and be destroyed. **II Cor. 10:3-4** *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: [4] (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”*
- B. **The Conflict of selfishness vs. selflessness:** Though it was promised to Israel that this land would be given into their hand (**vs. 2**); God required that this city be set apart as the first fruits. We must realize that, as Christians even though God gives us many blessings in life, it is still our reasonable service, (**Rom. 12:2**), to give back to God what He requires and requests.
- Any time God requests something from us, it is for our benefit.
- i. My treasure. God understands we value what we invest in, so He commands us to invest more into the spiritual than the carnal. **Lk. 12:34** *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*
  - ii. My time. God understands that there is more to life than the temporary, so He is constantly reminding us about the importance of living for eternity. **James 4:14** *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”*
  - iii. My talent. God has left us on earth to complete His work; this is why He has given us each different abilities, to bring Him honour not to bring honour to ourselves. **Mt. 25:15** *“And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability...”*
- C. **The Conflict of understanding God's plan vs Obeying God's plan:** No doubt that both the inhabitants of Jericho and the Israelites thought that the formulated plan seemed odd and ineffective (**vs. 3-4**); but when followed, it worked. Many Christians criticize God's methods because they seem outdated, but then wonder why they do not see the miracles they seek.
- i. The purpose of God's plan is to magnify His power, not ours. **Ps. 21:13** *“Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.”*
  - ii. The purpose of God's plan is to bring honor to His name. **ILL:** *Look at how many times throughout Jesus' ministry that you find Jesus doing a work or requesting a work to be done so that honour will be given to God.*
  - iii. The purpose of God's plan is to prove our love to God. **Judges 2:22** *“That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.”*
  - iv. The purpose of God's plan is to increase hope and faith in God's abilities. **Ps. 78:7** *“That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:”*

## II. Lesson #2: Man's responsibility in the completing of God's will.

### A. The Priests. (vs. 4)

- i. They proclaimed war against the heathen. – It was not the anarchist or those who thought they knew how to win the battle that declared war, it was the men of God. **Prov. 20:18** *“Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.”*
  - America was more effective in fighting the forces of evil when America sought the men of God before waging war on the wicked. God gives His men wisdom to wisely pick the appropriate battles and tactics in battle.
- ii. They proclaimed God's presence with God's people. – This was a reminder that it was God Who was going before them that would bring victory, not the military might of the patriots or the actions of the priests that would win the day.
  - The patriots in battle wage war more effectively when they are assured of the power of God they are representing (**Ps. 23:6**), and the people are more faithful during the times of battle when they recognize they are following the presence of God.
- iii. They proclaimed God's truth over man's philosophy. – This was a reminder that battle would be won only by using God's methods. (The priests did not blow silver trumpets on this day if was the crude rams horn that would proclaim God's power. God does not need fancy, He needs obedient.)
  - War waged against the forces of evil will never be won by man's ability to reason or resist. We will only be successful in battle when we fight based on truth and conviction, not emotions or revenge. **II Cor. 10:4** *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;”*

### B. The patriots. (vs.9)

- o It is important to notice that although the patriots were first in line in battle; strategically God placed the priests first.
    - To many are forsaking the presence and power of God and embracing a spirit of anarchy in an attempt to fix the problem man's way, instead of following the plan God.
    - Don't abandon church for a political campaign nor exchange obedience to Christ for vengeance on the wicked. In God's will there is a time and a place for battle, but His presence is to be preeminent.
  - i. These are those who willingly hazard their life for the cause of Christ. **Acts 15:26** *“Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
  - ii. These are those who are willing to separate themselves from things that entangle. **II Tim. 2:3-4** *“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. [4] No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”*
- It is understandable that not everyone at the same time are able to be a trained warrior on the front lines; but some, all the time, are able to make the sacrifice necessary to advance the cause of Christ. We must be teaching the next generation the importance of and training them to be ready to engage in battle.

C. The People. (vs. 16)

- It is important that we recognize that victory would not be attained without the presence of the *common* man. To many excuse their responsibility and underestimate their importance because they are not a patriot or priest (leadership).
- God did not respond the patriot's march or the priest's horn; the wall fell because of the shout of the people. God responds to the obedience of His people, not the greatness of the leadership.
  - Every patriot acclaims success to those at home.
  - Every preacher of the gospel acclaims victory to those who sit in the pews.
- i. There was patience shown by the people.
  - Quiet in marching = Submitting to what God has called you to do.
  - a. Quiet = keeps you from saying something to prevent the victory.
  - b. Quiet = causes you to meditate on what God is doing.
  - c. Quiet = Forces you to focus on the task at hand.
- ii. There was an attitude of persistence shown by the people.
  - a. They did not quit when the journey was long.
  - b. They did not get discouraged because they were in the back of the pack
  - c. They did not halfheartedly fulfil their obligation to God's will.
- iii. There was a propriety amongst the people.
  - a. God did not have them to observe the tradition of the Sabbath day.
  - b. God wanted His precepts to be the priority; not the traditions of the law.
  - c. God purified the filthiness of the world by the proper actions of His people.

**Close:**

- Don't underestimate the importance of your involvement.
- Don't forsake God's methods for man's ideas.

**Is. 55:8-9**

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*