

The Battle & the Victory is the Lords

Joshua Chapter 6

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Introduction:

Joshua chapter 6—the fall of Jericho—is an intense, exciting and baffling chapter of the Bible, but before we step into the drama it’s important to understand the journey that led here. The Israelites had spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness due to fear and disobedience. Now, under the leadership of Joshua they were finally entering the land God had promised to Abraham centuries earlier. The generation that doubted had passed away, and a new generation was being called to be “strong and courageous” in their faith and total trust in God’s leadership and path.

Jericho was the first major city standing in their way, a symbol of both opportunity and opposition. Strategically, Jericho was a fortress—it guarded the entrance to Canaan and it stood between the Israelites and what God told them He had given them. Spiritually, it was a test: would God’s people rely on their strength or on His power? As we study Joshua 6, we need to not just study it as ancient military history—we can explore what it looks like to follow God into impossible situations, to obey when His instructions are baffling, and to believe that He is able to tear down the walls we face today.

Section 1: Setting the Stage

Read Joshua 6:1-5

God’s victory is not dependent on our strength but on our obedience, our ability to follow His instructions in faith.

Jericho was a fortified city, meaning its walls were high, its gates were closed, and from a human perspective, it was impenetrable. If there was ever a daunting task, this was it. In some ways, you would think that God would have eased them into the battles for the Promised Land, let them start on something easier and build their faith over time. But instead God threw them into the deep end, and He still does that at times even in our lives today.

In verse 2, God says: “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands...” God speaks in the past tense, He speaks with the certainty of knowing the outcome is already secure in His

sovereign plan. This verse is our reminder that this battle and the victory is entirely the Lord's. He would deliver the city. Not only that, it is our reminder that we too fight "from a place of victory, not just for victory". This was a promise given by God that strengthened the people. We too have been given so many promises in God's Word and when we know them, meditate on them and choose to fully believe these promises, we are victorious in our lives as well.

The way in which the city would be handed over would leave no room for questioning who had won the victory. It wouldn't be by the strength of the people, it would be by God's glorious power. God's plan for victory, to put it lightly, is baffling. They are told to march around the city once per day for six days, and on the seventh day, march seven times, then blow trumpets and shout. There's no conventional warfare—no hand to hand combat, no sneak attacks—just worship, silence, and trust. The Israelites had to commit their full obedience to how God wanted them to face this battle, even if some thought it foolish. God still does this in our lives today. Sometimes He asks us to walk paths that make no sense by human reasoning, but victory, as we see in this passage, isn't found in reasoning—it's found in submission.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God chose such an unusual strategy for the fall of Jericho?
2. What does God's declaration in verse 2 say about His perspective on time and victory?
3. How would you feel if you were among the Israelites receiving these instructions?

Reflection Questions

1. What 'fortified walls' exist in your life right now that seem impossible to overcome?
2. Have you ever struggled to trust God when His plan didn't make logical sense?
3. How can you grow in seeing situations from God's perspective rather than your own?
4. What is one promise of God that you need to choose to believe today?

Section 2: Obedience in Faith

Read Joshua 6:6-16

Faith is revealed through our quiet, consistent obedience—especially when it doesn't make sense.

Joshua doesn't question God's command. He gives the people exact instructions. The priests carry the ark, the trumpets are blown, and the people march silently. Imagine being one of the Israelites—walking quietly, surrounded by enemies inside Jericho, wondering if anything would happen. Their faith wasn't loud or flashy, and perhaps at times it even wavered among some of the Israelites as they continued to march day after day. Their faith looked like consistency, quiet steps taken in obedience, even if there was some wavering. They didn't see instant results, but they trusted enough to keep marching on. God was working on their hearts during the process of obedience before He changed their circumstances, before He gave them the victory that was promised.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the Israelites were commanded to be silent as they marched?
2. What role do repetition and consistency play in our faith journey, based on this passage?
3. What do the trumpets and the Ark of the Covenant symbolize, and why are they important here?

Reflection Questions

1. In what areas of your life are you currently 'marching in silence,' trusting God without seeing results?
2. Have you ever given up too soon because you didn't see progress? What might "marching on" have looked like instead?
3. How might God be working in your heart during this time of quiet obedience?

Section 3: Victory and Consecration (Joshua 6:17–27)

Read Joshua 6:17-27

True victory comes with devotion and discernment.

Andrew Bonar reminds us, "Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle." God's instructions for the battle of Jericho included a call to devote the city to destruction, except for Rahab and her household. The rest of the city, including all valuables, all spoils of war, everything was to be set apart for the Lord. This wasn't about cruelty or God denying the people—it was about consecration. Would the people recognize that both the battle and the victory was the Lord's? Would they follow in obedience and dedicate everything back to God? It could have been easy for the Israelites to get caught up in the joy of victory

and forget the miracle that the Lord had done. We fall into this trap as well sometimes when we are marching around our own symbolic “walls”, praying, fasting, begging God to bring victory or relief and then when it comes we can forget to give Him the full, 100% glory for accomplishing it.

The only thing that was spared was Rahab’s household. Rahab’s rescue is a beautiful picture of grace—her faith brought salvation to her household (look back to Joshua 2 for her whole story). What’s amazing is that even in Rahab’s story, we see a mirror of obedience, even when it seemed odd. During an impending battle, hanging a red cord out your window to be spared doesn’t seem logical, but she did it anyway. Then when the walls of Jericho miraculously fell down on the 7th day, her section of wall was left standing when all around her was destruction.

At the end of our chapter, Joshua speaks a curse on the city, “Cursed before the Lord be anyone who tries to build this city – this Jericho!” Old strongholds should not be rebuilt. When God brings victory, we must honor it by not returning to what He freed us from.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to consecrate the city and devote it to destruction?
2. What does Rahab’s rescue teach us about God’s mercy and inclusion?
3. Why did Joshua declare a curse on anyone who would rebuild Jericho?

Reflection Questions

1. Are there areas in your life where God has brought victory, but you’re tempted to 'rebuild' what He tore down?
2. How can you honor God with the victories He has given you?
3. What does Rahab’s story show you about God’s willingness to redeem and use people regardless of their past?