

Joshua 6

v2-5

"See, I have given into thine hand Jericho"

- An incredible promise. Victory was assured/given. Despite the height and breadth of the walls and their defensive capabilities; no matter how hard or impossible it may seem; no matter the strength of Jericho and it's military prowess... God had promised victory!
- Joshua did not doubt or question The Lord's promise/provision. He believed and moved in faith.
- Do not underestimate Joshua's faith here. Consider what was at stake. He is responsible for the lives of these people and will be held accountable for them. He entrusted them to The Lord.
- We struggle to have faith when we consider what is at stake. We try to take matters into our own hands and we try to maintain control... The Lord accomplished great things through Joshua because of his faith. Not because of his strength or intelligence but because He trusted in The Lord. May we take into account that Joshua had much more to lose than we will ever deal with and yet he trusted The Lord completely. He was dependant! He was abandoned!
- *Romans 8:37 "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."*

v14

"And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days."

- Six days without results. Six days of repetitive wandering. Six days of seemingly foolish, illogical action.
- Six days of surrounding the enemy. Six days of declaring. Six days of warning.
- Six days of confident obedience. Six days of faith and trust. Six days of faithfulness.
- May we learn to hear and obey The Lord's leading and not our own logic.
- *Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding."*
- There are many examples of times The Lord has required His people to do seemingly illogical things. But obedience commands the blessing.

v15-16

"And it came to pass on the seventh day... compassed the city after the same manner seven times:"

"at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD has given you the city."

- I do wonder if there was some scientific explanation to these instructions. Did the constant drumming of feet and trampling of the ground affect the soil structure or foundations?
- The importance of the marching however is not in the scientific explanation. God is well able to lift these walls up or tear them down with a mere breath. The relevance/importance of these actions is found in the Israelites obedience and faithfulness to The Word of God.
- When they walked in obedience and faith The Lord fought for them and victory was assured.
- They were to shout. A shout of certain victory. A shout of triumphal confidence. Nothing had been accomplished yet but they were to shout in obedience and faith. A noise that would be heard inside the walls. A sound that was clearly heard and acknowledged.

v17-19

"in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed"

"they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

- The things of Jericho were accursed. They were an evil thing. The things of value would be dedicated to The Lord but the people were not to impurify themselves with the goods of Jericho. All of Jericho was to be destroyed. All of its wares and attractions.
- Consider the spiritual application... How often are we drawn to the things of the world? How often do we excuse the accursed thing because it is "pretty" or "funny" or "seems harmless"? Let us be so careful to keep ourselves from the accursed thing.
- The accursed thing will defile us! We too will become accursed! This is no small consequence, this is not light matter!

21&24

"And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword."

"And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein"

- If only we would be so minded with the things of the world today.
- *1 John 2:16-17 For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things]-these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself]. [17] And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides for ever.*
- May we learn to despise the fleshly, sensual pleasures in order that we may enjoy more of our precious Jesus! Our Life, Saviour and Lord.
- Learn to ask "Does this or that glorify God or feed my flesh?" / "Does this desire lead me closer to Jesus presence or further into my own pleasure?"

v25

"And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwells in Israel even unto this day;"

- There was always provision for the stranger and people not of Abraham's blood. Fear of God and faith/obedience to His word.
- *Exodus 12:48 When a stranger sojourning with you wishes to keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it.*
- Rahab now in the bloodline of The Messiah. What a precious, tenderness of The Lord. What a wonderful testimony of hope for the gentile.

v27

"So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country."

- May our testimony also go before us. May it be that the world looks on and know that we are a people separated unto The Almighty God!
- May it be that The Lord glory is seen and feared in/through our lives.
- God has not changed and He is no less mighty, powerful, authoritative and loving. May the world see God, may they see Jesus!