

Joshua 6 (NKJV)

1. Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.
2. And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.
3. "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.
4. "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.
5. It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."
6. Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."

10. Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."
11. So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.
12. And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.
13. Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.
14. And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.
15. But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.
16. And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!"
17. "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.
18. "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.
19. "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."
20. So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.
21. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.
22. But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her."
23. And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.
24. But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.
25. And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

New Beginnings, Joshua, 2026 – #6– Joshua 6: Jericho!

We **continue New Beginnings with Joshua and the children of Israel.**

Our journey leads us today **to a place and an event so spectacular** that even those with no church background or Bible knowledge know the reference: **Jericho!**

As always, our question is, **What would God have us learn from them to help us experience game-changing, world-shaking victory?** Like opening our most **anticipated gift at Christmas**, let's unpack this passage and see what \ awaits!

Notice a couple of

I. Observations

1. Order matters.

It had been a process to get them here, and **every step** of the way had not only been growth, but preparation for the next.

There are a couple of New Testament phrases that describe it well –

- From “**faith to faith**” – **One step of faith not only provided** for them but **prepared them for the next step.**
- From “**victory to victory**” – As they experienced victories big and small, they were strengthened and grew, every step.

They **had experienced** some pretty awesome things in a relatively short time. Momentum was building. Faith was growing. **Their past had brought, and prepared them, for this place.**

Our future is one that will **present difficulties and challenges**. The God who has **brought us here is preparing us even now** for the trial and the triumph! You may be there now.

2. Before revealing His plan, God revealed Himself: Jesus – Captain of the Host!

Dustin covered this two weeks ago. It is where we must begin every day, every adventure, every challenge. That awareness, and dependence, clears the way for that which only He can do!

3. God's Promise BEFORE Revealing His Plan:

Before you know anything, I have provided for your victory!

Vs. 2 – “**See! I have given Jericho into your hand”**

II. Obstacles

Obstacles are part of the journey.

It is impossible to move forward without resistance.

Jesus said, “*In the world you shall have tribulation.*”

From Eden on, there have been difficulties and obstacles.

Let me mention three:

A. Whispers

If you go back and read **Numbers 13 and 14**, Kadesh Barnea - you will hear the voices of doubt and discouragement –

- The 10 spies - “There are giants... we are but grasshoppers in their sight! There is no way we can win. We’re going to die. God has let us down!”
- The multitude – feeding on the negativity and doubt – murmured and fed the panic.

The voices they were used to hearing for 40 years! They got nowhere, watched family and friends eat dirt and die... Their past was not glorious!

As they faced Jericho, no doubt that the unseen forces of darkness were screaming deadly whispers to their souls...

B. The Warriors.

Before them was a legitimate, seasoned, trained host of fighting professionals.

C. The Walls.

The city was built to intimidate. The walls were massive. Jericho appeared **impossible to defeat.** But it could not be “skipped” or ignored. It stood as a giant obstacle on the path to the promised land!

There will be a Jericho ahead of us, standing between us and dwelling in God's promises. Maybe today.

Every time a Jerico looms, we struggle with many of the same obstacles –

Struggles and whispers within. Impossible situations before us. Questions that there just seem to be no answers to.

III. The Orders. They were...

A. Simple.

(Just explain the instructions)

Armed men would lead.

Immediately following were seven priests with the trumpets of rams horns.

Then came the ark of the covenant.

Then, armed men followed at the rear of the procession.

They were to march completely around Jericho once a day with the priests blowing the trumpets but not making another sound. They were to do this six days straight

On the 7 day, they were to march the same way but 7 times around!

On the 7th time – they were to shout!

When they did, the walls were to drop into the earth, the city would fall, and **they would go in and utterly destroy everything - Except Rahab and those in her house behind the scarlet thread!**

B. Clear and East to understand.

There was **no ambiguity** as to what God told them to do.

There are times we struggle to know what God is saying... what God wants in a given situation. However, more often than not, we really do know what He's directed, don't we?!

C. Illogical and questionable!

- The instructions **didn't make common sense.**
- **They were counterintuitive**
- **Logic would suggest...**
- **Other experiences both from their past and their world would dictate another path...**

- There were **many unanswered questions** – How? What about...?

D. Absolute.

They must either choose to obey, or do it their way!

So, what did they do?

IV. Obedience: The Ingredients of Victory

A. They turned from the obstacles, the whispers and voices within and perhaps even around, and **chose to listen to one voice: Their God!**

B. They didn't have to understand (we rarely will!); they just had to choose to believe their God, and respond in faith. **OBEY.**

The test of faith was not their promise; it was found in their performance!

C. They obeyed consistently day after day, and completely, even when it seemed nothing was happening!

SO, let me ask...

- **Are we committed to learning and listening to God's Word, excluding all other voices, including our own?**
- Even this morning- Jericho or not – **Have we given God a blank check-** whatever He asks, wherever He leads, our answer is “Yes!”
- **Have we abandoned the age-old human reaction of judging God** – of choosing **what, how much, and how far** we go with His word?

Could it be, that this very morning, God is bringing us **to the brink of a new level of walking with Him, leaving the past behind and stepping into His future?**

Consider those tough questions, questions that really will determine how our story plays out, in light of the...

V. Outcome.

A. Incredible Victory: What had seemed impossible was now history! Jericho was...

1. A victory that would help define them as they forged a new future.

2. A victory that would drive them.

***They weren't going to live here; they just had to get past it. They did, and Jericho, both terrible and great, would be in the rearview mirror as they marched on to new wonders. The "promised land".

3. A victory that would forever be a part of their story. Every future challenge would be faced with a blast from their Jericho past!

B. Unimaginable Grace!

As great as this big story is - Jericho, Walls falling, Enemies Defeated - ***there is something even more amazing!***

Against a backdrop of condemnation, total destruction, there is a promise of deliverance! A message of hope. 6:17.25

1. The Reality: Rahab and her family were part of the condemned inhabitants of Jericho. Sinful. Nothing to offer. Doomed!

(Just a glimmer of a bigger problem than Jericho: "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*").

2. Rahab: Rescued by Grace!

She had heard... and believed... and now acted on that belief. The scarlet thread was in the window!

3. Rahab: From Scarlet Woman to Scarlet Whisper Of The Gospel!

Rahab gathered her family in absolute awareness that if she didn't, they would die! She got it, realized the power of the promise she had been given!

Do we?

- Do we sense the urgency of Jesus?
- Do we honestly get it- If those we love don't come to know Him, the future is terrifying! They are lost!

- Do we realize that **we have been entrusted with the message of hope and the promise of the gospel** for every single person who will hear and receive it?!

The real wonder; Every single one in that room –

1. Was spared destruction when the walls fell and warriors came sweeping in.
(Strange. If the room was on the wall and the wall fell, how...?)
2. Was saved and became a part of God's people. God's promise.

Jericho!

More than an amazing story, it is a powerful message for us, this morning.

- **For those condemned... longing for answers but lost.**
The God of hope has provided for you, and promises you, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!"
- **For those facing a Jericho...**
God has a lesson and purpose in it. **He has already prepared victory in what we are about to discover and face!**
 - Seek His Word. His voice.
 - Surrender totally and consistently to His plan.
 - Step out trusting Him without needing to understand, knowing that when we do, victory is waiting!
- Finally, realize someone, somewhere will fall under the shadow of our influence. We have the key, not only for ourselves, **but for them**. Their hope. Their rescue. Their future.
 - Bought by and made possible by Jesus.
 - Entrusted to us to share with them!