

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Joshua 6:1-27

- At the end of Chapter 5 Jesus Himself appears to Joshua and tells him that He was The Captain of The Lord's Army, thus letting Joshua know that Israel is under His charge and following Him, instead of Joshua leading Israel. That is very important for us to know, that despite our roles in our families, churches, communities, jobs, that if you are a Christian then you are under the charge of Jesus, therefore you are in a constant state of following Him and not Him following you, if I remember that it makes things so much simpler.

V1-27

- **V1-2** Jericho is on full military alert, its code red throughout the city as it knows Israel is coming, and so they have shut all their gates so that no one can enter in, nor can anyone go out, but everyone is locked inside the city. Up to this point everything that Israel has done has been in preparation for what they are about to face here at Jericho, for as you can see Jericho is not surrendering, so if Israel is going to win the city they first must take the city.
- That means there is no **victory** without **warfare**, and whether we like it or not the Christian life involves challenge and conflict, as our enemies are constantly waging war against us and trying to keep us from claiming our inheritance in Jesus Christ. But we must be mindful of **V2** which says Joshua and Israel were fighting from a place of victory and not just for victory, for God says the battle as already been won Israel just needed to show up and obey the Lord, now for many **showing up** (no problem), but **obeying The Lord** (big problem).
- Especially when it involves us doing the impossible by looking ridiculous, as we want the victory but we want to look dignified and intelligent while obtaining it > **2 Kings 5:10-14** Naaman the Syrian general was asked to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times and he would be healed and he got angry because he thought that wasn't noble enough for a man of his stature, he needed something magnanimous, so that he could feel like he'd earned his healing instead of just going and taking a bath in the Jordan, to him that was ridiculous.
- **V3-5** after God tells them that they would take the city now he gives them instructions on how they'd take it, and the method of warfare was one that made absolutely no sense militarily, in fact this plan required no military intelligence whatsoever, it simply required total dependence on God, as I said earlier **showing up** (no problem) **obeying The Lord** (big problem), this is where so many fall short, as we think our plans our better than God's plan.
- You know when some people heard this plan it really messed with their pride as they thought this is absolutely ridiculous, the enemy is going to look out at us and began to laugh at us and think how backwards and unintelligent we are. This plan doesn't have a bit of human reasoning in it, it deals with our sensibilities which is why its so pure > **Is 55:8-9**.

- **V6-10** so the conquest begins and Joshua speaks to the priests first because you overcome the enemy in spirit before you ever conquer it in the natural, and by carrying the Ark which contained God's Word it showed Israel that conflict is never just about the flesh, for you overcome the enemy by faith and not by might, which is why you don't make a sound.
- You know typically in most battles silence is rare, even during a ceasefire, as opposing armies want to inflict psychological damage on its enemy as well as physical damage. In the Vietnam war I remember reading that the American soldiers would hear messages asking them why are you over here risking your lives, away from loved ones, fighting a battle that's not even your concern, it would have soldiers thinking yea why am I over here, risking my life for some people I don't even know, psychologically warfare, but here God says silence.
- **V11-16** I want you to think about his at least **600,000** soldiers according to **Num 26** that are marching around this city of Jericho, in doing this it would have been both time consuming but also dangerous as they are not lifting up any weapons, for they are solely reliant on the Lord protecting them. **V15** do you know how much endurance it would have taken to march around the city seven times 600,000 people, after seven days of silence over two million people lift their voices in praise as they shouted out that the Lord had given them the city.
- **V17-19** this no doubt was a test of Israel's faith and patience, as the two go hand in hand, as its no faith without patience and no patience without faith, and if the weeks schedule was a test of their faith and patience then the command to be silent was a test of self control, as we know people have extreme difficulty controlling their tongues.
- All of this would lead to here as now its time to take the city and Joshua commands them that they can take some spoil for themselves except for the silver and gold that belongs to God, also Rahab and family are to be spared, only that which is used for pagan worship they are to destroy and not keep for themselves, besides that everything else you can have. Now because of the tests of faith, patience, and self control, Israel is prepared to obey these commands, so they are ready to take the city for the Lord.
- **V20-25** so as the praise went up the walls of Jericho came crashing down, without Israel ever lifting a hand or a weapon, and they go in and capture the city and destroy everything from man to beast, the only thing to survive was Rahab and her family. Notice the only reason she survived was because she did exactly what the two spies had told her to do, you know its going to be like this when Christ returns, everything that doesn't have a scarlet thread (the blood of Jesus covering it) will be destroyed nothing being spared.
- **V26-27** not only was Jericho destroyed but also a curse placed on it that if anyone tries and rebuilds this city that their firstborn and their youngest child would die, and that came to pass in > **1Kings 16:34** Hiel of Bethel tried to rebuild the city and when he laid the foundation his eldest son Abiram died, as the gates were erected his youngest son Segub dies. The pride of man one would think when the first died he'd stop knowing the curse but he continued.