

11/14/21 Message

Part of Prayers for Victory

November 13, 2021

Message: Bringing Down Jericho Walls

Series: Winning with Thanks

Recap: This is our fifth message in the series Prayers for Victory. In this series you'll be challenged to be equipped and ready for the battles you'll face in life. More than that, you'll be encouraged to shape your prayers knowing the battle is approaching... even before the battle rages!

Mark Batterson wrote a book called 'Circle Maker' and the whole premise of the book is drawing circles around your prayers. Literally drawing a circle, stepping into the circle, and not coming out until your prayer has been answered.

- God honors BOLD prayers because BOLD prayers honor God!

"Circle makers claim God given promises... they pursue God sized dreams... and they seize God ordained opportunities! I want you to become a circle maker that draws circles around your biggest dreams and your biggest fears. I want you to draw circles around your family... your job... your problems... your goals."

Introduction

- RELIGIOUS freaks depend on tradition and themselves to get things done
- JESUS freaks depend on God to get things done

Review - Moses is dead and Joshua was hand picked by God to lead Israel into the Promised Land.

Step 1 - Getting out of Egypt (breaking free from slavery/bondage)

Step 2 - Journey to Canaan (required faith and perseverance)

Step 3 - Crossing the Jordan (Joshua prayed circles around the Jordan)

They faced battle after battle. That's the spiritual

journey! And if you give your life to Christ, it's no different for you. You're not immune to battles... the fight... the junk... whatever you want to call it. The difference is, you're not in it alone, not anymore!

—Pastor Chad

Moses told the Israelites about the battles they'd face:

Deuteronomy 9:1

Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky!

Moses wasn't talking about "today" literally - it happened 40 years later.

Deuteronomy 9:2

The people are strong and tall - descendants of the famous Anakite giants...

The Anakites were enormous, some 7-9 feet tall; they were big and strong (they were bullies).

Forty years passes and Joshua leads the charge.

Joshua 5:13-14

13 When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?"

14 "Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the Lord's army." At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said. "What do you want your servant to do?"

Joshua was preparing for a battle he couldn't win... that's where God steps in!

Joshua 6:2-19

2 ... "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.

3 You and your fighting men should march around town once a day for six days.

4 Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn.

On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns.

5 When you hear the priests give one long blast on the ram's horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town."

6 So Joshua called together the priests and said, "Take up the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram's horn."

7 Then he gave orders to the people: "March around the town, and the armed men will lead the way in front of the Ark of the Lord."

8 After Joshua spoke to the people, the seven priests with the rams' horns started marching in the presence of the Lord, blowing the horns as they marched. And the Ark of the Lord's Covenant followed behind them.

9 Some of the armed men marched in front of the priests with the horns and some behind the Ark, with the priests continually blowing the horns.

10 "Do not shout; do not even talk," Joshua commanded. "Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!"

11 So the Ark of the Lord was carried around the town once that day, and then everyone returned to spend the night in the camp.

12 Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests again carried the Ark of the Lord.

13 The seven priests with the rams' horns marched in front of the Ark of the Lord, blowing their horns. Again the armed men marched both in front of the priests with the horns and behind the Ark of the Lord. All this time the priests were blowing their horns.

14 On the second day they again marched around the town once and returned to the camp. They followed this pattern for six days.

15 On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times.

16 The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the town!

17 Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to the Lord...

18 Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on

the camp of Israel.

19 Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury.”

Jericho the Fortress

The city was protected by a series of walls. The first one, a retaining wall, about 12-15 feet high with a mud-brick wall on top that’s about 20-26 feet high. The wall is about 6 feet wide (or 6 feet thick). There’s a ridge with another wall that’s about 50 feet high.

Exodus 23:27

I will send my terror ahead of you and create panic among all the people whose lands you invade. I will make all your enemies turn and run.

Joshua 6:1

Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites...

The city was locked up tighter than a drum! God told Joshua, draw a circle around it!

Joshua 6:20

...Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it.

- God made them a promise, and He DELIVERED!
- God made them a promise, and they CLAIMED it!

Claiming the Promise

Before they even started drawing the circle, God had given them Jericho. If the people didn’t claim the promise, they would have never had victory over the enemy.

Hebrews 11:30

It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.

- Israel claimed their victory by FAITH

Jericho fell because:

- If you keep circling the promise, God will deliver on it
- If you keep circling your prayers, God will answer them

We have to draw circles around the:

- promises that God wants us to stake claim to
 - miracles that God wants us to believe Him for
 - dreams that God wants us to pursue
- We should KEEP CIRCLING until God gives you what He wants and what He wills for your life

As in Matthew 20 (Mark 10 and Luke 18)...

- You have to KNOW what to circle

Prayer Challenge

Practical tips for drawing circles:

- Don't just read the Bible, circle the promises
- Don't just make a wish, write down your life goals
- Don't just pray, keep a prayer journal
- Don't go at it alone, pray daily with a partner

Pray every day for the next 48 days (now through December 31) and be specific, identify something and/or someone that you are going to pray for - and commit to praying for the next 48 days

- Pick a time to pray
- Pick a place to pray
- Pick a person to pray with
- Do it daily!!!

Know this:

- There is a difference in praying FOR and praying THROUGH
- A circle maker INTERCEDES until God INTERVENES

Praying through is about consistency. Praying through doesn't take no for an answer. Remember, you could be one prayer away from that wall falling down!

Deuteronomy 2:25

Beginning today I will make people throughout the earth terrified

because of you. When they hear reports about you, they will tremble with dread and fear.

Deuteronomy 7:23

But the Lord your God will hand them over to you. He will throw them into complete confusion until they are destroyed.

Deuteronomy 11:25

No one will be able to stand against you, for the Lord your God will cause the people to fear and dread you, as he promised, wherever you go in the whole land.

You don't read verses like this and expect defeat. God is for you and He wants you to be victorious as you pray circles around your biggest dreams and greatest fears. Today is the day - be a circle maker!