

Open Mic

Don't Stop on 6

I want to remind us not to stop short of the things God has promised us

I want to remind you not to stop short of the things God has promised you

Jericho (crossed river Jordan out of desert toward the promised land)

Joshua 6:1-6, 14-16

Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

² Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.³ March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

⁶ So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” ⁷ And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord.”...

¹⁴ So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵ On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!

What if they stopped on lap 6?

What if they stopped on day 6?

Where have you stopped on lap 6? Day 6?

3 Problems & 3 Solutions

PROBLEM #1: We have partial perspective

Joshua 6:1-6, 14-16

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.”

- Joshua sees a walled city with barred gates
- What God says is the FULL reality

Solution #1: We live on His word not our perspective

Impossible isn't a problem for God. Our perspective can be.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we live by faith, not by sight.

- They saw high walls & locked gates
- The gates were securely barred **BECAUSE OF** THE ISRAELITES
- The reality is God had gone before them

PROBLEM #2: Our progress isn't always obvious

- No bricks moved on the first 6 laps

Solution #2: The results are His responsibility, obedience is ours.

Will you do what God says even if it doesn't end up looking the way YOU think it should?

Can we believe God is working even when IT isn't working?

What is your "IT"?

Hebrews 10:35-36

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Q: Will you keep walking even when it doesn't seem to be working?

- Can you keep walking when the bricks aren't moving?

Problem #3: The process is open ended

- We never know which lap we are on – soldiers didn't know
- This was the first city they had to overcome but God's people continued being led through additional cities, additional trials, additional challenges – it is an open ended process - 31 additional kings
- This came after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness (& miracles)
- This came after 400 years of slavery (& miracles)

Solution #3: Embrace the process – it is usually about you & Him, not the walls

- Why did they walk around 6 times?
 - Was that for God?
 - Maybe it was for them?
 - **God was**
 - showing them the impossibility
 - allowing them to come to the end of themselves
 - he was teaching them to look to Him
 - He was setting a foundation so that when they got to the promise they knew who gave it
- 6 is the number of man. It is where our ability stops, falls short
- 7 is God's number, the number of spiritual completion where He fulfills His promise

Waiting & Miracles.

At the same time.

We keep walking.

DON'T STOP ON 6

Practical application for us here in East Lansing...

A certain Jewish Historian – 5 ways to deal with taking over a walled city.

God's strategy here has nothing to do with any of those 5 ways.

It has to do with:

- Process
- Obedience

- Praying
- Worshipping
- Walking
- Waiting
- Trusting

THEY WALKED AND THEY PRAYED - the walls come down.

That is what we are going to do...

Takeaway Action: PRAYERS

- o Strength for those tired - to keep going from 6 to 7
 - Keep walking when the bricks aren't moving
 - Faith
- o About God's work IN us not TO us
- o That we would exchange our perspective for His perspective
 - God helps us have faith