



## SCRIPTURE

Joshua 6

## OVERVIEW

Through this passage, we observed that endurance consists of three key dynamics:

### 1. **Challenge**

Joshua and the people of Israel stood before the City of Jericho and found it "Shut up inside and out" (Verse 1). The question for us is not 'if we will face a challenge' but 'When we face a challenge, how will we respond?' If we're not careful, we can subtly shape our faith around the circumstances and feelings we face (if things are going well, then God is good, and if they're bad, then so is God). What we see through this story is that resilient faith looks at challenges through the lens of faith (see verse 2) and shapes our faith around the truth of God's word.

## 2. **Obedience**

Joshua's response to the challenge was obedience; he heard the Lord, and he obeyed. Alongside Joshua, we also observed how all the people responded in obedience. This passage shows that it isn't easy; it involved days of silent marching with no sign of progress. So it is for us: obedience to the Lord is not easy, often requiring endurance in the face of a lack of progress. As Eugene Peterson puts it, we are called to a 'Long Obedience in the same direction.'

## 3. **Breakthrough**

The story ends with a supernatural breakthrough as the walls of Jericho fall, and the people of Israel are victorious. We certainly believe we can expect to see a breakthrough in the face of the challenging circumstances we face, but our ultimate hope is not in breakthroughs in the challenges we are facing today. Instead, it is in the day of Jesus' return. Our hope is in Christ's ultimate victory over sin and death. Just as the walls of Joshua fell, so when Jesus died on the cross, the curtain that separated the presence of God from mankind was torn from top to bottom. We live in anticipation of the ultimate breakthrough when Jesus returns, and all sin, sickness, and sorrow are gone.

# **DISCUSSION**

1. What challenges are you facing at the moment and how can you approach it through the lens of faith?

2. What does obedience to Christ look like for you?
3. How can living with an eternal perspective shape your approach to the challenges of today?