

On Mission: Empowered for Outreach

Jericho's Wall: Victory in the Lord Joshua 5-6

Introduction: *In the book of Joshua, we find the Israelites facing the imposing walls of Jericho, Yet, through this narrative, we learn that victory does not come by human strength, but in God alone. So, as we look to these chapters of Joshua, let us look to the faithfulness of God and the lessons of courage, perseverance, and obedience in order to navigate our own obstacles with unwavering trust in God's promises and His power to lead us to victory.*

I. Consecration and Alignment (Joshua 5:2-15)

- A. Significance of Circumcision
 - 1. More than a ritual; symbolizes inner transformation and dedication to God.
 - 2. Importance of aligning hearts with God's will and embracing spiritual renewal (Rom 2:28-29).
- B. Meeting the Captain of the Lord's Army
 - 1. Parallels with Jesus as the ultimate authority and leader of God's people (Matt 12:30).
 - 2. Emphasis on surrendering to God's will and seeking alignment with His purposes.
- C. Living a Sanctified Life:
 - 1. Crisis Experience: Sanctification may involve a decisive moment of surrender after conversion, marking a turning point in the believer's life.
 - 2. Progressive Growth: Sanctification is also a continuous process of growth in holiness and spiritual maturity throughout the believer's life.
 - 3. Surrendered Life: Living a sanctified life requires daily surrender to the will of God, allowing the Holy Spirit to have full control over every area of our lives (Gal 5:16).

II. Courage in the Face of Fear (Joshua 6:1-11)

- A. Jericho's Inhabitants Afraid
 - 1. Reflecting on the awe-inspiring power of God and reasons behind Jericho's fear (Joshua 2:9-11).
 - a. The LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea.
 - b. Defeating the two kings of the Amorites.
 - c. The Jordan River was stopped.
 - 2. Implications of God's power in instilling fear in opposition.
- B. Jericho's Formidable Defense
 - 1. Jericho was a stronghold, integral to Canaan's defense system.
 - 2. Jericho was 400 square feet; but was difficult to defeat because of its walls.
- C. Living in the Power of God
 - 1. Contrast between human prowess and divine intervention for victory (Matt 19:26).
 - 2. Illustrating God's strength shining through human weakness (2 Cor 12:9).

3. Remembering that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7).

III. Strategy in Obedience (Joshua 6:12-20)

- A. Destruction of Jericho
 1. Significance of Jericho as a formidable stronghold and the necessity of divine intervention.
 2. Implications of obedience and trust in God's wisdom.
- B. Understanding Jericho's Significance
 1. Identifying personal strongholds hindering spiritual growth.
 2. Surrendering barriers to God's power for victory.
- C. Trust and Obey
 1. Trust in God's plans despite human comprehension.
 2. Obedience leads to spiritual breakthroughs.

IV. Perseverance and Persistence (Joshua 6:21-27)

- A. The City Falls
 1. Victory achieved through unwavering faith and obedience.
 2. God brings about victory, liken to the foolishness of the cross in (1 Cor 1:18)
- B. Endurance in the Face of Challenges
 1. Encouragement to persevere amidst trials, anchored in God's faithfulness.
 2. God is faithful to do what he said he would do (Heb 10:23)
 - a. Defeated Jericho.
 - b. Brought safety to Rahab.
- C. Identify with Christ and His victory.
 1. Reflecting on our union with Christ and His victory over sin and death (Gal 2:20).
 2. Drawing strength from our identity in Christ to persevere through trials and challenges, knowing that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Rom 8:37).

Conclusion: *As we look to the conquest of Jericho, may we also embrace consecration, courage, and perseverance in our own lives, trusting in God's faithfulness to lead us through every obstacle. And may we also reap the rewards of obedience, knowing that God is faithful to fulfill His promises to those who diligently seek Him.*