

Discussion Questions



The Walls of Jericho

Overview

This week's sermon drew from Joshua 5 and 6 and Hebrews 11:30 to explore the story of Jericho's falling walls. The message challenged us to examine where we place our faith, whether we see ourselves as Joshua or as Jericho, and what it means to endure faithfully even when nothing visible seems to be changing.

Key Takeaways

1. Faith, not circumstance, produces victory. Hebrews 11:30 makes clear that the walls fell because of faith. The marching, the trumpets, and the shout were outward expressions of that faith, not the cause of the victory itself.

2. The right question is not "Is God on my side?" but "Am I on God's side?" When Joshua encountered the commander of the Lord's army and asked whose side he was on, the answer reframed the entire situation. God is not a resource we recruit. He is the Lord we submit to.

3. God's ways are often counterintuitive. Marching instead of fighting. Worship before war. The ark at the front of the army. God's instructions frequently look foolish by human standards, yet they accomplish what human strategy cannot.

4. We are often Jericho, not Joshua. Before we can claim victory over our circumstances, we must honestly ask whether there are walls in our own hearts that need to come down -- barriers of pride, self-sufficiency, or hostility toward God.

5. Salvation is received, not earned. Just as God told Joshua the city was already delivered before a single step was taken, the work of salvation is already accomplished in Christ. We receive it through faith, not through earning it.

6. Endurance is faith expressed over time. For six days, nothing visibly changed. The people kept marching anyway. God is not absent during seasons of unanswered prayer or unresolved struggle. He is shaping character and deepening dependence on Him.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

- Think about a time in your life when something changed significantly -- a new season, a new challenge, or a loss. How did that change affect your faith? Did your trust in God feel steady or shaky during that time?

Diving Deeper

1. The sermon began with Hebrews 11:30, emphasizing that it was faith -- not the method -- that brought the walls down. Why do you think we are so tempted to focus on the method rather than the faith behind it? Can you think of a time when you put more trust in a strategy or approach than in God himself?
2. When Joshua asked the mysterious armed man whose side he was on, the answer was "neither." The sermon pointed out that the real question is not whether God is on our side, but whether we are on God's side. How does this shift in perspective change the way you approach your current challenges?
3. The sermon listed several examples of counterintuitive obedience -- tithing when money is tight, keeping the Sabbath when you are behind on work, forgiving instead of taking revenge. Which of these is hardest for you personally, and why?
4. The sermon offered two ways of reading the story: we are Joshua, or we are Jericho. Which of these resonated more with you today, and what does that tell you about where you are spiritually right now?
5. Pastor Ike said, "Be careful that you don't place yourself in the seat of Joshua when you need to place yourself in the seat of

Jericho." What walls might exist in your own heart right now -- barriers between you and full surrender to God?

6. The sermon warned against a transactional view of faith -- the idea that if we do the right things, God owes us results. Have you ever caught yourself thinking this way? What is the difference between faithful obedience and transactional religion?
7. For six days, nothing changed. The people kept marching. The sermon said, "Endurance is faith expressed over time." What does faithful endurance look like in a practical, daily sense for you right now? What would it mean to keep marching even when you see no visible progress?
8. Pastor Ike prayed specifically for people who carry the belief that they are not good enough for God. Have you ever struggled with that wall? How has your understanding of grace shaped -- or challenged -- that belief?

Practical Applications

This week, try one or more of the following:

- **Identify your Jericho.** Spend some time in prayer asking God to show you what walls in your own heart need to come down. Write them down and bring them honestly before God.
- **Practice counterintuitive obedience.** Choose one area of your life where God's way feels foolish or inconvenient, and take one deliberate step of obedience in that area this week.
- **Recommit to endurance.** If you are in a season where nothing seems to be changing, write out a short statement of faith that you can return to each day -- something that declares your trust in God regardless of visible progress.
- **Examine your view of salvation.** If you have been living as though your standing before God depends on how good you have been, take time this week to read and meditate on what Scripture says about grace. Talk to your group leader or pastor if you have questions.
- **Begin with worship.** Like the ark placed at the front of the army, try beginning your day or your most difficult tasks with intentional worship before anything else.

Closing Reflection

The pastor closed the sermon with this prayer:

"We pray that you would come and stand before us and say, I'm not for you or against you, but would you be for me? And that we would open ourselves up today, God, to receive whatever you want to say to us and the places that you want to lead us to."

Take a moment as a group to sit with that question: **Would you be for me?**

Close your group time in prayer, inviting each person to surrender one specific thing to God -- a wall, a fear, a season of waiting, or a barrier they have been carrying alone.