Joshua – Sermon Series: "The Journey of Faith"

Part 3: [Joshua 6:1-5;15,16] "AN UNCOMMON FAITH"

## [Joshua 6:1-5, 15,16]

"Now Jericho [a fortified city with high walls] was tightly closed because [of the people's fear] of the sons of Israel; no one went out or came in.

2 The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the mighty warriors.

3 Now you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do this [once each day] for six days.

4 Also, seven priests shall carry seven trumpets [made] of rams' horns ahead of the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

5 When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall cry out with a great shout (battle cry); and the wall of the city will fall down in its place, and the people shall go up, each man [going] straight ahead [climbing over the rubble]."

15 Then on the seventh day they got up early at daybreak and marched around the city in the same way seven times; only on that day they marched around the city [a]seven times.

16 And the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city." Amp

"An Uncommon Faith" can be defined as a belief in God that goes above and beyond the average.

- A faith that pushes boundaries and sets aside limits.
- Uncommon Faith, is that unwavering trust in God that GIVES YOU THE CONFIDENCE to ask for the extraordinary, believe in the impossible, and expect the miraculous...

"By faith Abraham, when he was called [by God], obeyed by going to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went, not knowing where he was going."

"By faith even Sarah herself received the ability to conceive [a child], even [when she was long] past the normal age for it, because she considered Him who had given her the promise to be reliable and true [to His word]." <sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

<sup>25</sup> because he preferred to endure the hardship of the people of God rather than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

<sup>26</sup> He considered the reproach of the Christ [that is, the rebuke he would suffer for his faithful obedience to God] to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt; for he looked ahead to the reward [promised by God]...."

(Joshua 3:16b, 17), "So the people crossed [the river] opposite Jericho.

17 And while all [the people of] Israel crossed over on dry ground, the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan [riverbed], until all the nation had finished crossing over the Jordan." Amp

# 1.We Overcome obstacles through Communication with God

2. We Defeat Difficulties Through Compliance with God

3. We Experience Victory through Confidence in God

## I. We overcome obstacles through Communication-Requiring "active listening skills."

[Joshua 6:1-5], "Now Jericho [a fortified city with high walls] was tightly closed because [of the people's fear] of the sons of Israel; no one went out or came in.

2 The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the mighty warriors....

3 Now you shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do this [once each day] for six days.

4 Also, seven priests shall carry seven trumpets [made] of rams' horns ahead of the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

5 When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall cry out with a great shout (battle cry); and the wall of the city will fall down in its place, and the people shall go up, each man [going] straight ahead [climbing over the rubble]."

- The "strength" of any relationship is a result of good communication.
  - o(Jer. 33:3), <sup>3</sup> 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and tell you [and even show you] great and mighty things, [things which have been confined and hidden], which you do not know and understand and cannot distinguish.'

# Listen for God's instructions – His plan of action

o(Jer. 29:11), <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

#### I. We Defeat Difficulties Through Compliance

(vv. 6-7), <sup>6</sup> So Joshua the son of Nun called for the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and have seven priests carry seven trumpets made of rams' horns ahead of the ark of the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>He said to the people, "Go forward! March around the city, and let the armed men go ahead of the ark of the LORD."

(vvs. 12-14), <sup>12</sup> Then Joshua got up early in the morning [on the second day], and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets made of rams' horns ahead of the ark of the LORD went on continually, blowing the trumpets; and the armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued to blow the trumpets.

14 On the second day they marched around the city once, and returned to the camp; they did this for six days....

#### Their obedience to God produced wonders.

15 Then on the seventh day they got up early at daybreak and marched around the city in the same way seven times; only on that day they marched around the city [a]seven times.

16 And the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city." Amp

#### III. We Experience Victory through Confidence

20 So the people shouted [the battle cry], and the priests blew the trumpets. When the people heard the sound of the trumpet, they raised a great shout and the wall [of Jericho] fell down, so that the sons of Israel went up into the city, every man straight ahead [climbing over the rubble], and they overthrew the city."

### "AN UNCOMMON FAITH"

- 1.We Overcome obstacles through Communication with God
- 2.We Defeat Difficulties Through Compliance with God
- 3.We Experience Victory through Confidence in God