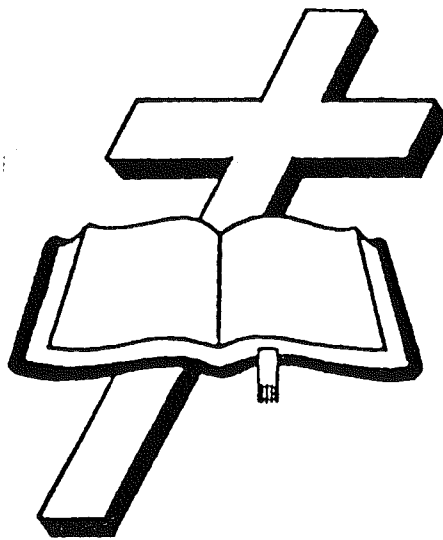


JERICHO WALLS “COME DOWN”

(How Your Walls Come Down By Cooperating With God)

Joshua 6:1-27



SEE THE WALLS COME DOWN THROUGH:

- ◆ Unwavering Faith
- ◆ Total Obedience
- ◆ Absolute Surrender

**“By Faith The Walls Of Jericho Fell Down, After They Were Compassed About Seven Days”
(Hebrews 11:30)**

Bill Kirk

“THE WALLS COME DOWN”

Text: Joshua 6:1-27

Subject: “Seeing Your Jericho Walls Come Down”

Introduction

- ◆ Joshua is a book of “New Beginnings”.
- ◆ It illustrates how we can say “goodbye” to the old life and hello to the new life.
- ◆ It’s a book that details our conflicts and battles (as well as our conquests and victories).
- ◆ It’s a book that pours courage into the heart of every one of us.

Our Theme Verse (Joshua 1:9)

“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: For the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest”.

Question: But pastor, how do I obtain a spirit of courage in a negative world?

Question: How do I maintain a “Joshua Spirit” in the midst of conflict, pressure, and daily responsibilities?

Question: What enables me to overcome the Jericho strongholds within my own heart?

Remember

In chapter 1, “**Characteristics of a Spirit of Courage**”.

In chapter 2, “**The Legacy of Rahab**” (How a harlot was saved by the Amazing Grace of God).

In chapter 3, “**Crossing Over Jordan**” (How the Ark, the presence of God makes all the difference in the world).

In chapter 4, “**Ministry at Gilgal**” (How the memorial of twelve stones still speak to us today).

In chapter 5, “**The Captain of The Host**” (How separation, celebration and divine visitation prepares us to march forward).

Today In Chapter 6, “See The Walls Come Down”

Questions

- ◆ Pastor, how do I approach my Jericho walls, things that oppose me in my walk with God?
- ◆ Pastor, what does God say “to do” when my prayer looks impossible for God to answer?
- ◆ Pastor, how can I conquer those internal walls that want to keep me out of victory lane?
- ◆ Pastor, why did Joshua tell Israel to carry the Ark with them around Jericho?
- ◆ Pastor, why did God instruct Israel to destroy all of Jericho and burn the city down?
- ◆ Pastor, what enables Israel to remain patient for seven days without knowing what would happen?
- ◆ And what difference does it all make in my life this morning?

(“Our Prayer Oh God Today”)

“Let The Walls Come Down”

(Jericho Secrets Of Walls Coming Down)

I. **“Unwavering Faith”** In The Promises of God (vs. 1-6)

- ◆ The siege of Jericho was ready to begin.
- ◆ The land to possess was to be a place of rest,
- ◆ Yet, at the same time, it was a place of conflict.

(The Same Is True For Us)

- ◆ On one hand, we have perfect peace and rest in the Lord.
- ◆ On the other hand, we have an enemy to overcome and a battle to engage in.

(We’re Not Discouraged Because)

- #1. Jesus overcame the world system against Him.
- #2. Jesus overcame the flesh and all temptations.
- #3. Jesus overcame the devil and every evil power.

Question: Why is Joshua chapter 6 in your Bible?

Answer: Because the victory of Israel in taking the land of Canaan, is a picture of our spiritual warfare today:

- ◆ Jericho is a picture of your enemy,
- ◆ Jericho is a picture of your opposition,
- ◆ Jericho is a picture of your conflict against principalities, powers and evil strategies.

Notice (V.1)

“Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: None went out, and none came in.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Jericho was one of the “city states” of Canaan.
- ◆ It was a stronghold to impede Israel’s progress.
- ◆ It was a discouragement and obstacle in the way.
- ◆ It guarded the passes to the interior of Canaan.
- ◆ As long as Jericho stood, the land of milk and honey (Canaan) could not be entered into and possessed by the people of God.

Question: Do you have a Jericho within your own heart?

Question: Have you any strong holds or fortresses that need to be captured?

Question: Is there some internal power of evil that keeps you from marching forward?

Question: Is there any ground that needs to be gained or taken back in your heart?

Question: Any walls that have resisted you and told you, “You’ll never see these walls come down”?

(If So, God Has Good News For You)

- ◆ In Hebrews 11:30 the Bible says:
“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days”.

(What’s The Word To Your Heart?)

“By Faith The Walls Fell Down”

(In Other Words)

- #1. Joshua believed that God could pull them down.
- #2. The people believed that God could pull them down.
- #3. God has written this so you will believe that God will pull them down.

(“But Pastor I’m Weak”)

- ◆ Israel was weak and powerless!
- ◆ Israel was not trained in warfare strategy.
- ◆ Israel had no weapons to overcome the enemy.
- ◆ Israel knew that only God could pull down the walls.
- ◆ But Israel had faith to believe in the power of God!

Question: How many of you believe that Jesus can do it again?

Question: How many believe that Jesus can capture every Jericho within our hearts?

II. “Total Obedience” To The Plan Of God (vs. 7-16, 20,21)

(It Seems Foolish, But It Worked)

- #1. Tell the armed men to march around Jericho once a day for six days.
- #2. Tell the seven priests to follow and blow their trumpets.
- #3. Tell the priests carrying the Ark of The Lord to march next.
- #4. Tell the rear guard to complete the procession.
- #5. No sound or noise but the trumpets please.
- #6. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, have the priests blast away on their trumpets and then have all the marchers shout to the Lord.
- #7. God will cause the walls to fall down (not in a pile) but flat so that the soldiers can enter and possess the city.

Question: Did the Lord honor His word and remove the walls of resistance?

Answer: (v. 20) The wall fell down flat so that the people could go in and they took the city.

Question: But what had to happen before the Lord could pull down the stronghold?

Answer: The people had to trust and obey for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to Trust and Obey!

- ◆ The people obeyed and risked everything on God.
- ◆ The people proved their faith by their obedience.
- ◆ The people had to obey first, before the stronghold would come down.

(What’s The Lesson?)

- #1. Obedience is the key that unlocks the door.
- #2. Obedience is the willingness to follow instructions.
- #3. Obedience arrests God’s attention, (no matter how impossible your walls appear to you).

- ◆ We all have high walls that confront us. ◆ We all face enemies and obstacles to our progress.
- ◆ We all want God to do the supernatural. ◆ We all have opportunity to believe and obey.

(And I Discover Again)

- ◆ That my progress in God will go no further than my obedience takes me. (I repeat)

III. “Restful Patience” In The Process Of God (vs. 12-14)

(Notice V. 10)

“And Joshua commanded the people saying, you shall not shout (nor make any noise or speak any words) until the day I bid you to shout”.

- ◆ The people were tempted to be impatient.
- ◆ The people would be tempted to rush ahead.
- ◆ The people would be tempted to run ahead of God.

(But What A Lesson)

- ◆ That the people would experience a delay.
- ◆ Joshua never announced what God had promised him.
- ◆ Not until (v. 16) on the seventh day, the seventh time around did Joshua tell the people to shout and take the city.

(Think Of It)

- ◆ To some it seemed like a waste of time.
- ◆ It took two hours a day to leave the camp, walk around the city and return to camp.
- ◆ On the first day around, many expected something to happen (but zero results) (are you there?)
- ◆ Joshua knows what to expect, but Israel is on hold and marches for seven days.
- ◆ 13 times around in 7 days, and still nothing happens (until the shout to the Lord).

Question: Can you imagine the look on their faces each day around the walls?

Question: Can you imagine the conversations back at camp every night?

Question: Can you hear their whispers of faith:

“Maybe Tomorrow will be the day”

“Do you think we should go again?”

“Why do we have to be so patient?” “

“Can’t God do it now?”

“Why is it taking so long?”

- ◆ But instead of murmuring and complaining, a patient rest prevailed in the heart.

(What Would Israel Learn?)

- #1. That God’s delays are not God’s denials.
- #2. That our times are in His hand.
- #3. That He makes all things beautiful in His time.
- #4. That God isn’t in a hurry and knows what to do and when to do it.

IV. “Full Acceptance” Of The Grace Of God (vs. 21-25)

Question: What was the one exception to the judgment upon Jericho?

Answer: (Vs. 21-25)

(v. 25) “And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father’s household and all that she had”.

- ◆ Rahab and her family were spared judgment.
- ◆ Rahab had believed God (in ch. 2) and concealed the spies.
- ◆ Rahab experienced the grace of God regardless of her tainted, stained and sinful past.
- ◆ She was a recipient of eternal life and influenced her entire family as well.

Question: Did she deserve to be saved? (No)

Question: Was she good enough to be saved? (No)

Question: Could she earn her way to heaven? (No)

Question: Then pastor, how do you experience sins forgiven, a full pardon, and the favor of God?

◆ Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

(It's Habakkuk's Prayer in Habakkuk 3:2)

“Revive thy work in the midst of the years, in wrath remember mercy”

(Any Walls Of Guilt And Condemnation Today?)

Then Remember Rahab

- #1. She was a sinner. (are you?)
- #2. She was an immoral woman. (are you?)
- #3. She was bound by sinful habits. (are you?)
- #4. She was distant from God. (are you?)
- #5. She was wasting precious time. (are you?)
- #6. She wondered if God would embrace her. (do you?)
- #7. She was worried about her family. (are you?)
- #8. She had experienced the guilt of sin. (have you?)
- #9. She needed the blood to cover her sin. (do you?)
- #10. She found out there is power in the blood. (will you?)

(Remember This)

- ◆ Walls don't come down because we are good, they come down because God is good.
- ◆ There is not one wall that can keep God out, if we desire (and are willing) that God comes in.

V. **“Absolute Surrender” To The Pulling Of God (vs. 17-27)**

Question: What did God say to do when the walls came down?

Answer: Something we must never forget.

(v. 17) “The city shall be accursed and all that are in it”

(v. 18) “Keep yourselves from the accursed thing”

(v. 21) “And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city”

(v. 24) “And they burnt the city and all that was therein”

(v. 26) “Joshua said, cursed be the man that rises up and rebuilds the city of Jericho”

Question: What did God say do to Jericho (the stronghold of sin) in the way?

Answer: “Destroy everything in the city!”

“Demolish everything in the way!”

“Only keep the sacred portion that is Mine”

(Why Destroy Everything?)

- #1. Canaan was wicked and God knew that His people would be contaminated by sin.
- #2. God wanted a holy people and the Jewish men compromised and married pagan women.
- #3. God had given the Canaanites plenty of time to repent (but they continued to reject the light).
- #4. God wanted to illustrate to us that He cannot tolerate compromise with sin. (Pg. 5 of 6)

(Why Not?)

- ◆ Because God is a consuming fire. (Hebrew 12:29)
- ◆ Because God is a jealous God. (Exodus 20:5)
- ◆ Because we cannot serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)
- ◆ Because an awful price was paid for sin's power.

(It cost the death of God's son)

(It cost the shedding of innocent blood)

(It cost the death at Calvary)

(It cost everything to free us from sin's power)

Question: Is it really that important to be freed from sin and live holy before God?

Answer: (Joshua 6:26)

- ◆ Joshua said, "Never rebuild this city"
- ◆ "A curse has been placed upon it"
- ◆ I Kings 16:34 records the fulfillment of Joshua 6:26
- ◆ A father and his youngest son rebuilt Jericho

Conclusion

- ◆ How do the walls of spiritual resistance come down?
- ◆ How do we make progress and gain ground with God?
- ◆ How do we conquer Jerichos within our own heart and move forward to greater victories?

#1. "**Unwavering Faith**" (Believe today, that, God can pull down every wall that opposes you in the Jericho of your soul).

#2. "**Total Obedience**" (Do whatever the Lord tells you to do).

#3. "**Restful Patience**" (Resist the temptation to run ahead of God).

#4. "**Full Acceptance**" (Of God's Grace to forgive you and cover every sin).

#5. "**Absolute Surrender**" (Let God destroy, demolish, and burn up everything that opposes God's work in your life).

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor