

The Battle Of Jericho

Joshua 6:1-26

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 6:2

“And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Several old newspapers and 4 - 5 chairs.

Several bricks (5 - 6 should be good) chipped into 4 or 5 pieces during the week. Enough pieces of brick for each child.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Simon Says

Play a game of Simon Says.

Then go over God’s specific instructions for the defeat of Jericho from tonight’s lesson.

Make the comparison that God wants our complete obedience to His specific commands, then He gives us the victory. **God is always on our side.**

LESSON TIME!

In this chapter, we will see what Joshua and the children of Israel were to do after they crossed the Jordan. It would not be a time of leisure, but they would be called to fight – and in a very unusual way.

In today's lesson we will see that when God calls us to do His will, He will tell us how He wants us to do it. We may not always understand His plan, but we know that if it is His plan, it will work. We are to simply obey Him. As Joshua was called into battle, so we are called to a battle – spiritual warfare (2 Corinthians 10:1-6). In order to win we need to listen to God and obey Him. When we do we will find out like Joshua and the Israelites that **God is always on our side.**

JOSHUA 6:1-5

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

"You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.

"And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

"It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a

great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

Jericho was an important city, the first the Israelites needed to conquer in the land God was giving to them. It was a strong fortress, shut up so nobody could go out or come in. It was also shut up against God, engulfed in its rebellion against God. In verse 2, God tells Joshua that He has given Jericho into his hand, all of the city. No fortress can stand against God, and God will be strong on Joshua's behalf. **God is always on our side.**

God gives Joshua His plan. The men of war were to march around the city of Jericho for six days, with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. Then, on the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times, and the priests were to blow the trumpets. When the people heard a long blast with the ram's horn and the sound of the trumpet, then all the people were to shout. Then God gave them His promise: the walls of the city will fall down flat. The people were to go in and conquer the city.

There are some important lessons for us in these five verses. We see that it was God who gave Jericho into Joshua's hand. We see how that Joshua and all of Israel had to trust God. There was no way for them to depend on their own strength. They would have never won the battle. We know that "apart from Him we can do nothing." (John 15:5)

We also know that even though God had given the city into Joshua's hands, Joshua was required to do something. We know that along with God's provision and the absolute certainty that He will win the battle, we may still have responsibilities – to walk in obedience to Him.

We also see that it really never was a battle for God. He is so strong that all He had to do was to give the command and the battle was over. How we need to trust in our strong God! **God is always on our side.**

God's ways are different from man's. Who would ever think that this mighty fortress would be completely demolished by a group of people walking around it? God's ways are to bring glory to Himself, and to help us grow in faith. His ways are never fleshly, scheming or worldly methods, but instead they are filled with faith, obedience, courage, and patience.

It is also good that Joshua did not gather together the other leaders and discuss this plan to see if they wanted to follow it. He received his orders from the Lord, and leaves us an example to follow. Let us just simply obey and follow the Lord, without questioning His commands. **God is always on our side.**

JOSHUA 6:6-14

Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."

And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

Here we see a little more closely the instructions that God gave to Joshua. The ark was given the place of honor, being made central in the order of the procession. First the men of war were to go, then came the ark with seven priests in front of it with trumpets of rams' horns, and behind it came all the body of people. The ark was symbolic of God's presence, and its being carried before the congregation was to remind them that the victory was from Him.

Also in the ark were the Ten Commandments, God's law. His word was ever before them, and His word is always with us, hidden in

our hearts. The sound of the trumpets would perhaps put fear in the Canaanites hearts and at the same time put courage and confidence in the Israelites hearts. Thus, it is with us. While those who are in rebellion against God should tremble with fear of Him, He gives us courage and confidence in Himself. **God is always on our side.**

In verse 9, we see the rest of the company, those who followed behind the ark. Then in verse 10, Joshua commands the people to be absolutely silent until the day he tells them to shout. Joshua did not give the people an explanation, and they simply obeyed the command.

Often God does not give us the “whys” for things, but we are just simply to obey His commands. Thus from verses 11-14 we see that the people faithfully obeyed and marched around the city without any apparent murmuring or complaining. In Joshua 1:16 they vowed to Joshua, “All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go,” and they did keep their word. It is so important for us to obey God without murmuring or complaining.

Paper War

Have a stack of newspaper to wad up to use as ammo.

Divide the class into two teams. Make a “wall” for each team by placing 4 or 5 chairs in a row for them to hide behind. Tell them they may wad up paper and throw paper at the other team (but caution them to be careful not to throw too hard). The teacher should help one team for the first half then go help the other team.

When it’s time to stop and you have their attention, ask what it was like to have the teacher on your team. Ask what would happen if the teacher took down one of the “walls.” Compare to Jericho. What is it like to have God on our side helping us in our battles?

JOSHUA 6:15-19

But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.

And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!

"Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

"And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

"But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

Now, after six days of marching around the city, they are to march again. The walls were as strong as ever, and perhaps their faith had been tested, but they were still obedient to Joshua. This time they marched around the city seven times, and Joshua told them to shout for "the Lord has given you the city." He then declares the city accursed.

These people were wicked people and could have been spared if they had turned from their wickedness, but they would not, except for Rahab. In verses 18 and 19 Joshua warns them to keep themselves from the "accursed things." Matthew Henry said, "God

had promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, not a land abounding with silver and gold, for He would have them live comfortably in it that they might serve Him cheerfully, but not covet either to trade with distant countries, or to hoard for after time.”

Jericho was the “first fruits” of Canaan, and it was fitting that it should be entirely devoted to the Lord, and its treasures set apart for Him. **God is always on our side.**

JOSHUA 6:20-25

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her."

And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of

bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Now we see the fruit of the Israelites courage, obedience and patience. The walls of Jericho fell down. In Hebrews 11:30-31 we are told that “by faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.”

It was faith that caused the wall of Jericho to tumble down. There was obedience of faith, the patience of their faith, and assurance of their faith, and finally the triumph of their faith. **God is always on our side.** The Israelites “utterly destroyed all that was in the city...” (verse 21). Jericho was a desperately wicked city and God had given them time to repent, but they would not, so they brought their own judgment upon themselves.

In verses 22-25 we see how the promise given to Rahab (chapter 2:14, 19) was kept. Here we see the beauty of God’s mercy to those who really turn to Him and believe in Him. The preservation of her house, which was “upon the town wall” (Josh. 2:15) was a miracle, as was the falling down of all the other parts of the wall.

We see the preciousness of Rahab's faith, and how God spared her and her household. Joshua honored his promise and we all must honor our promises as well. It is very important to keep our word.

JOSHUA 6:26

Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up

and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

Joshua condemns Jericho to destruction that would last continually, and a curse to any man that at any time should offer to rebuild it. God would have it remain in ruins as a standing monument of His anger against the Canaanites in their sin, and of His mercy to His people. It is a dangerous thing to attempt the building up of that which God will have to be destroyed.

There are many valuable lessons for us in this chapter. We see that there is no obstacle too great when God is for us and with us. Faith holds onto the things that are "not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). God's promises often times still require our responsibilities. Obedience does not always need reasons at the time. We must not complain about what we are called to do. We must not be discouraged, but be patient, for God's ways and times are not ours. We are engaged in a battle also, but our warfare is spiritual – God has given us all we ever need for our battle (Ephesians 6:11-17; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5). **God is always on our side.**

A Chip Off The Old Block

During the week chip up red bricks into 4 or 5 pieces. Bring enough pieces for each child to have one. Write the first word of what God said to Joshua in the memory verse: "See!" on the piece of brick and the scripture reference. If you have enough room you could write the whole verse on the piece of brick.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving that **God is always on our side** and will fight our battles for us. All we have to do is to trust in Him. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.