

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WALLS FALL DOWN FLAT

Conquering Your Canaan - Josh. 6:1-21

Israel has finally crossed the Jordan.

- They have prepared themselves spiritually and
- They have, so far, followed God's orders to the letter.
- Now, they are ready to ***begin the conquest of the Promised Land.***

They are ready to claim for themselves the land that flowed with milk and honey. **However,** like most things in life that are worth having, it **wouldn't** come cheap!

For Israel, Jericho would be a benchmark.

- It was at Jericho that they would ***flex their muscles***
- And experience ***military victory and conquest.***

Try to put ***yourself*** into the shoes of the average Israelite soldier.

- For most of these men, **Jericho** was the first city they had ever seen that was ***surrounded by huge walls.***

It must have looked like ***an absolute impossibility*** to many.

- However, ***they listened to the instructions they were given by the Lord***
- And **they saw those massive walls** ***fall down flat.***

This morning, many may question the fact that

- We are preaching from a book that is old and ***that is all about battles and wars.***
- It is my opinion that the book of **Joshua is very relevant** to today's Christians.

We are living in days of battle and spiritual struggle.

We need to know how to fight.

We need to know that our ***God is able to give the victory.***

- We need to know **how to follow** Him to that victory.
- **Joshua teaches us those valuable lessons!**

Just as Israel faced the formidable walls of Jericho, you and I face walls and obstacles in our lives as well.

We need to know how to over-come them as we march towards the victory.

- This passage holds that answer for us today.
- Let's watch Israel conquer Jericho and as we do –
- Let's let the Lord teach us **How To Make Our Walls Fall Don Flat.**

ISRAEL HAD A PROBLEM – vs 1 *Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.*

A. Jericho is known as the oldest city in the world, in Joshua's day, it was surrounded by a system of two massive stone walls.

- The outer wall was **6 ft. thick** and about **20 ft. high**.
- The inner wall was about **12 ft. thick** and was **30 ft. high**.
- Between the walls was a guarded walkway about **15 ft. wide**.

Israel's problem was that they had a city to conquer, but **there were some extremely huge walls in the way. (Obstacles)**

B. As we go through life, we have obstacles that we face as well.

- Perhaps it is a **lost loved one**..
- A **lost community** over which we are burdened,
- A **ministry** from the Lord that **we feel inadequate about**,
- **Family troubles**...
- **Financial trouble** that stresses us to the limits...
- **Sin** that constantly crops up in our life....

C. We must learn not to look upon our obstacles as dead-ends, but as opportunities for the Lord to work in our lives!

The great Apostle Paul had such an obstacle –

2 Cor. 12:7-10 – ⁷ Therefore, in order to **keep me from becoming conceited**, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.

⁹ But he said to me, “***My grace is sufficient*** for you, for ***my power is made perfect in weakness***.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, ***I delight in weaknesses***, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. ***For when I am weak, then I am strong***.

This attitude is foreign to us this morning.

- Yet, we must come **to realize** that **the power of God is best revealed** in and through us **when we are unable to handle life**.
- ***God is more clearly visible*** when **we are totally out of the picture!**
- In a sense, **that is what He did** with Israel here.
- As we will see, **He completely removed them** from the equation!

The victory at Jericho **was all God!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Israel Had A Problem

ISRAEL HAD A PROMISE - vs.2 Then the Lord said to Joshua, **“See, I have delivered** Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

A. As Joshua and all the men of war stood looking at those walls around that great city, **God had a word of comfort for their hearts!**

- Here, **God promises Israel the victory** before they ever **attack Jericho!**
- He lets them **know about the conclusion** before they ever **enter into their battle!**

B. **As we face our obstacles**, whatever they may be **we can do so with confidence**, because **we have the Lord's promises as banners to march under:**

1. **We Have His Promise That Our Weapons Are Powerful Through God - 2 Cor.**

2. We Have His Promise That Our Battles Have All Been Arranged By The Lord - Rom. 8

3. We Have His Promise That Our Ability Is Limited Only By Our Faith - Phil. 4:13

4. We Have His Promise Of Power In The Day Of Battle - Eph. 6:10.

5. We Have His Promise Of Ongoing Victory - 1 Cor. 15:57.

6. We Have His Promise That We Will Never Fight Alone - Heb. 13:5

7. We Have His Promise That When The Battles Are Ended, We will Celebrate The Victory In His Presence - John 14

As we face the walled cities in our lives, we need to learn to believe the Lord, to take Him at His Word and trust Him for our victories!

Jesus did not save you to be defeated!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- He saved you for the victory and *He will be there all the way to help you!*
- **Will there** be trials? YES
- But, there will also be victory.....

I. Israel Had A Problem II. Israel Had A Promise

ISRAEL HAD A PARTNER - vs.3-5 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; **then the wall of the city will collapse** and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

A. Israel's partner was none other than God Himself!

- He was in absolute control of the battle,
- He was leading them
- He was the guarantee of their victory!

As we face our walled cities and the obstacles of our lives, it is a blessing to know that we do not have to face them alone, or in our own strength

No obstacle is insurmountable as long as we face it in the Lord!

A moment ago, we spoke of ***the power of God's promises***.

For a moment, let's talk about ***the weapons we have been given to fight the battles.***

1. ***The Word of God*** - You and I have been blessed by the Lord in that He has given us a perfect, inspired, infallible, inerrant record of **His Word**.

The Word of God is called the "**logos**". (Greek for **WORD**...)

When ***Paul was listing the armor*** that is to be worn by the saints ***as they battle the enemy***, he mentions the ***one offensive weapon we have*** and that ***is the Word of God!!!!***

Eph. 6:17 - Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, ***which is the word of God.***

It is interesting to note that **when Paul mentions the Word of God** as a weapon of spiritual warfare, ***He does not use the word "logos"***.

He, instead, uses the Greek word "rhema".

Rhema literally means an utterance (individually, collectively or specifically).

- This word ***means a particular Word of God.***
- If we continue to think of ***the Bible as an armory filled with swords*** of all descriptions,
- Then the ***"rhema"*** would be a particular sword for a particular battle.

This truth is illustrated by the Lord Jesus Christ on **the Mount of Temptation**. **When the devil tempted Jesus** to turn the stones into bread,

Jesus responded by saying,

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

- Here, Jesus also used the word **"rhema"**.

- Each time the devil attacked our Lord,
- **Jesus walked into the armory of the Word of God** and chose just the right sword for each attack.

The same principle will work for you and me!

- ***God has a word for what you are facing.***
- However, ***if you don't know your way around*** the armory,
- Then ***you will not be able to select the right sword.***

2. **Prayer** - Far too often we ignore the great power that has been given to us in prayer!

- **Prayer is far more** than me just taking my grocery list to the Lord and reading it off.
- ***Prayer has the ability to get things done!***

You see, ***we have been given some pretty awesome promises*** in the arena of prayer.

- **God has promised that He will hear our prayers -**
- **God has promised that He will answer our prayers -**
- **God has promised that He will help us pray –**
- Essentially all **true prayer begins with God.**

I. Israel Had A Problem II. Israel Had A Promise III. Israel Had A Partner

ISRAEL PREVAILED - v.6-21

A. **The context.** *Israel marched around the city in obedience to the Lord and they prevailed!*

- The absurdity of the command!
- **Can you imagine how the people in Jericho must have reacted?**

They saw the armies of Israel approaching their city and they probably thought that they were about to be invaded by the enemy.

However, **instead of attacking**, the soldiers, and the priests merely marched around the city one time.

All that was heard was the sound of the ram's horn trumpets and the pounding of the soldier's feet upon the ground.

This was repeated for 6 days. By this time, **the people in Jericho** were no doubt mocking and jeering the Israelites.

Then on the seventh day, they compassed the city seven times.

When they had finished that seventh lap, the priests gave a long blast on the trumpets and **the people of Israel shouted with a great shout!**

It wasn't the shout of an attacking army, it wasn't a shout of fear, **but it was a shout raised in praise to their God Who had promised them the victory.**

When the people shouted, the walls fell down flat and Israel ran into the city and utterly destroyed it.

B. There are some reasons why Israel experienced victory at Jericho:

- **They had a Word from God** - (v.2-6)
- **They believed God** - (v.8-20) - God said it, that settled it! Do we really believe God?
- **They acted in faith - They did it God's way** - This is the secret to success!
- **God gave them the victory** - (v.20-21)

C. God's church will prevail,

Matt. 16:18 - upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- **God's people will prevail!**
- **You can prevail** in whatever situation you are facing right now!
- **Take a lesson from Israel, God has promised us the victory –**

1 Cor. 15:57 - But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conc:

What kind of walled city are you facing right now?

- Does it appear to be **unconquerable**?
- Do the walls look **too high** and do they appear **too thick**?
- Does it seem that **victory is absolutely impossible** in your case?

If your walls haven't already fallen down flat, they can!

- They **can fall** right now!

You need to take a lesson from Israel and **start handling your Jericho's God's way.**

Will you come before Him this morning with **whatever your need is?**

Will you **bring it to Jesus** right now!

He excels in **doing the undoable!**

He can **pass the impossible, think the unthinkable, do the undoable!**

He is still a miracle working God!

Greater than **any obstacle, able to move any mountain, stronger than any barrier**
you might face today.

Bring it to Him and **watch Him work it out!**