

The Conquest Begins

INTRO:

"What should we learn from the walls of Jericho falling down?"

Answer: *The story of the walls of Jericho falling down*, is one that vividly demonstrates the miraculous power of God.

- But more than that, the utter destruction of Jericho teaches us several grand truths regarding God's grace and our salvation.
- **The people of Israel** had just crossed over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan.
- This was the land of milk and honey **God had promised to Abraham** over 500 years earlier.
- After spending forty difficult years wandering in the desert of Sinai, **the people of Israel** were now on the eastern banks of the Jordan.
- **Their challenge:** take the land of Canaan, the Promised Land.
- However, their first obstacle was **the city of Jericho**, an unconquerable, walled city.

In ancient warfare such cities were either taken by assault or surrounded and the people starved into submission.

However, the strategy to conquer the city of Jericho was unique in two ways:

- **First**, the strategy was laid out by God Himself -
- **Second**, the strategy was a seemingly foolish plan.
- God simply told Joshua to have the people to march silently around Jericho for six days.....
- And then, after seven circuits on the seventh day, to shout.

Though it seemed foolish, **Joshua followed God's instructions to the letter**.

- When the people did finally shout, **the massive walls collapsed** instantly, and Israel won an easy victory.
- In fact, **God had given the city of Jericho** to them before they even began to march around its walls.
- It was when the people of God, by faith, followed the commands of God that the walls of Jericho fell down.

Joshua 6:1-5 – NKJV - The Destruction of Jericho

6 **Now Jericho was securely shut up** because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. ² And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! **I have given Jericho into your hand**, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor. ³ **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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.”

The Bible says to Joshua,

Vs 1 Jericho was straightly shut up, in other words nothing was going on, there was a stalemate going on, in the eyes of an innocent bystander no one was winning,

Vs 2 Then God said to Joshua ***“I have given into thine hand Jericho”***

Vs3 Then he says ***“Go and compass the city”***

In other words, **Go and Do something** about the promise **I have promised you**.

- Very ***definite, and concise*** instructions given to the child of God.
- There it is, **I have given it, now go and poses what I have promised**.

Webster says “conquest” means, the act or process of conquering.

I want to speak today on this subject “Let the conquest begin”, or let the act or process of winning begin.

Every child of God needs to know that Victory comes with a fight

- There is nothing worth having that is ***not worth fighting for***.
- All of us need to understand that **our Christian lives will be filled with challenge and conflict** until the Lord comes for us...

The enemy of our soul will ***constantly be waging war against us!!!!***

- Trying to steal the hope of ***eternal life from us***.
- And anything else that is precious to us in this life.

I want the Devil to know the conquest begins today; the process or the act of achieving ***my victory***, in ***my life*** starts right now!

- Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.

I want you to know the world, the flesh, and the devil are all united against the Lord and his church.

He is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour; the bible tells me; And, knowing the time, that now ***it is high time to awake out of sleep...***

- Let us therefore ***cast off the works of darkness***, and let us put on the armour of light.
- Let us not sleep, as do others; but let us ***watch and be sober***.

Warfare disturbs a lot of people

- ***Conflict*** is something that a lot of folks ***run from***
- Just like what's happening ***in our world*** today.

But never forget, ***the main theme of the Bible***, has always been, ***God's holy war against Satan and sin***.

In Genesis 3:15, God declared war on Satan, and one day very soon ***He will declare the final victory over Satan when Jesus Christ comes for his church***.

Never forget what the cross represented, for if there had been ***no cross*** than there would be ***no victory over Satan or Sin***.

A pastor attended a court hearing one day to protest the building of a tavern near his church and a public school. The lawyer for the tavern owners said to him, "I'm surprised to see you here today, Reverend. ***As a shepherd, shouldn't you be out taking care of the sheep?"***

The pastor replied, normally I would be but ***"Today I'm fighting the wolf!"***

There comes a time in our ***conquest for victory*** in our ***spiritual lives*** were going to have to fight

- Sooner or later you're going to have to ***let the devil know who's side you're on!!!***

People today **don't want conflict**, they want it to be as easy as it can be.

- I feel that for, far too long **to many of God's soldiers** have been **too passive**
- **To gentle when it comes to Satan**
- **And his attack against us personally, our families, and our church.**

I believe it's time **we raise our hands and lift our voices** and say to the enemy **by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit**

- **"LET THE CONQUEST BEGIN"!**
- **Victory is mine, Victory has been promised to me**
- **And I claim what belongs to me.**

Paul warns us in **Acts 20:28-29** - NKJV

²⁸ Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which ***the Holy Spirit has made you overseers***, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.**

Church were **not** fighting against **flesh and blood** today...

The Apostle Paul said **Ephesians 6:10-17 – NKJV - The Whole Armor of God**

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

What God's word is telling us, is that **we cannot be victorious over the Devil with carnal weapons, our weapons must be spiritual!**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - NKJV

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

In **this spiritual battle** there is **no room for neutrality**.

Jesus said, "He **that is not with Me is against Me,**" I believe that hell has a place especially prepared for those who choose to be neutral...

Listen church were on the winning side.

- There's **no time** to look to left or to the right
- There's **no time** for doubt and fear

I want us to see some things in what I read today.

1st Remember that we fight from victory, victory is already ours, that is not what we're fighting for, what we're fighting for is to stay in the fight.

The great thing about this battle were involved in, is that **we are guaranteed a victory**.

Victory has already been promised to us. Jesus Christ has **already defeated every spiritual enemy** we will ever have to face today or tomorrow.

Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness when he was all-alone...

- But he also **defeated the Devil** when the multitude was around him.
- He **defeated Satan** on the cross
- But he also **defeated Satan** in the grave.

No matter where you're at today Jesus can give you the victory.....

- NO MATTER WHAT YOUR **FACING**,

- NO MATTER WHAT YOUR **SITUATION** IS
- NO MATTER WHAT YOUR **CIRCUMSTANCE** IS
- GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE VICTORY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Listen to some facts about Jericho.

- Jericho covered about eight acres and was protected by two walls...
- Which stood about 25 feet tall
- In between the two walls that protected the city was about fifteen feet
- And in between the two walls was a ditch
- Which was filled with water
- The outside wall that stood 25 feet was 6 feet thick
- The inside wall which stood 25 feet also was 12 feet thick.
- A total of **18-foot thick walls.**

Here's the thing that gets over looked when it comes to Jericho.

- Jericho was a mighty fortress, a formidable foe for the children of Israel.
- We need to see is **what was waiting for them** on the other side of Jericho.

And that was Jerusalem and Bethel.

Jerusalem means (Possession of peace) and Bethel means (House of God).

Could it be that God wanted us to know –

- Before you will ever have the (Peace of God) in the (House of God)
- In your mind and heart
- ***You're going to have Victory over Jericho.***

Jericho simply means (unknown) every one of us has our own unknown Jericho!!!

I don't know what you're Jericho is.....

But ***I do know*** that God said; that

- The ***victory over Jericho is yours, it belongs to you, I've given you the victory over it.***
- ***Now go and poses it.***

How do I do that? –

March around it, pray over it, fast, seek God, believe, have faith, today.

And ***if nothing happens today*** get up tomorrow and do the same thing, pray, fast, seek God, believe, have faith!

What happens ***if nothing happens the second day***, get up the next and the next and the next ***until something does happen***.

****Remember what I said were not fighting for victory were fighting to stay in the fight.***

I believe by what I read in the scripture that Joshua and the people of God when the time was right said in the face of Jericho

“LET THE CONQUEST BEGIN” I’m ***not given in***; I’m ***not backing down its mine!!!***

We are a conquering people and we will not compromise or back down from the promises of God.

- ***This is no time to compromise*** or back down from ***what God has promised you.....***

LET THE CONQUEST BEGIN, AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME!

Joshua 6:2

² And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! ***I have given Jericho into your hand***, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor.

“I have given Jericho into your hand” In other words, The victory had already been won!

I believe those that will be the most successful in God’s army ***will be those who -***

- ***Know*** the promises of God
- ***Believe*** the promises of God
- And ***by faith live in*** the promises of God.

I don’t care how big the enemy is, how big the mountain is, how big the trial, or how big the temptation is, ***my God is able!!!!!!!***

Jesus told the disciples **“Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”**

No situation is too great for the Lord to handle, and no problem is too much for Him to solve.

When He saw more than **5,000 hungry people before Him**, Jesus asked Philip, what do you have?

- **5 loaves and 2 little fish**
- **Jesus said**, that will be enough
- In fact that’s plenty
- We will have some left over.

It’s time we quit worrying about the problem and **give it to Jesus**.

The second thing I want you to see in this story I read to you is that **2nd During the fight: Remember that you can only overcome the enemy by faith! And faith alone.**

Hebrews 11:30 – NKJV - By Faith They Overcame

³⁰ **By faith the walls of Jericho fell down** after they were encircled for seven days.

Now if you were to read these first 6 chapters you would see the ARK is mentioned (27) times,

The Ark represented the presence of God and it has always been the will of God for things to be in their proper place.

I said that to say this, I believe it is the will of God that our families be saved.

Victory is already yours if you will just march and be faithful, and consistent, and persistent, **the walls will come down!!!**

Psalm 46:10 - NKJV

¹⁰ **Be still, and know that I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

CLOSE:

3rd - Thing that I want us to see In this story, before the walls came down, there was some shouting going on.

We will not see victory until we learn how to shout.....

I know that sounds ridiculous, and strange, but **our ways are not God's ways, God told Joshua tell the people to shout!!!!**

I BELIEVE SOMEONE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE NEED TO SHOUT ITS VICTORY TIME.

- ***SHOUT IT'S DELIVERANCE TIME.***
- ***SHOUT IT'S HEALING TIME.***
- ***SHOUT IT' BREAKTHROUGH TIME.***

I'M GOING INTO THE ENEMY'S CAMP, AND I'M TAKING WHAT BELONGS TO ME, SHOUT!

- ***SHOUT BECAUSE I'VE BEEN DELIVERED.***
- ***SHOUT BECAUSE WERE HERE TODAY, AND NOT ON A BARSTOOL.***
- ***SHOUT BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SET FREE.***
- ***SHOUT FOR JOY! SHOUT BECAUSE I'VE BEEN REDEEMED!***

Joshua 6:4-5 - CEV

⁴Take along the sacred chest and have seven priests walk in front of it, carrying trumpets.

But on the seventh day, march slowly around the town seven times while the priests blow their trumpets. ⁵Then the priests will blast on their trumpets, and everyone else will shout. The wall will fall down, and your soldiers can go straight in from every side.

Church I don't know what day this is in your quest for victory, but **I do believe it is somebody's day for victory,**

- ***But you're not going to get it without a shout.***

I'm blowing the trumpet today and I'm saying let's shout, victory's ours, deliverance is ours, freedom is ours.