

THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN

Joshua 6:1-20

Introduction: Israel had been brought out of it's 40 years wilderness living and was finally in their promised land, but there was an obstacle in their way, the city of Jericho and it's high, strong walls. As God got them through the wilderness wanderings and across the flooded Jordan river, God would now take care of the obstacle of the Jericho wall. How?

As Christians, we have been released from a bondage by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have been led through wilderness of lostness and have now crossed over into the land of the redeemed however there are "Jericho's" that appear, as we progress through our land of redemption.

I. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE "JERICHO'S"

1. There is no state of grace in which a believer is utterly free from Satan's attacks.
 - Save and safe in Jesus Christ, bound for heaven, but Jerichos are encountered.
2. What is a Christian's "Jericho?"
 - There are weaknesses in one's personality, perhaps something outside of one's self maybe a family situation or something that keeps pulling one back from the will of God.
 - Always there will be a "Jericho" between a believer and God.

II. HOW ARE JERICHO'S OVERCOME?

1. Remember the wall around the city of Jericho and the strange spectacle which the inhabitants of Jericho watched for days as a parade of priests, the Ark, masses of people silently walking around their city walls with blasts from trumpets now and then but not a word from all the people?
 - Jericho remained the same every night as Israel went back to their Gilgal camp after walking around the wall every day.
 - For 6 days Israel walked around the city but on the 7th day they walked around it 7 times, making a total of 13 times, and on the 7th time around that day, the people were told by Joshua to shout and blow the trumpets. They did! And the walls of the city of Jericho fell to the ground. Not a soldier/warrior's shot was fired.
2. God delivers His people HIS way.
 - Jericho was captured not by mechanical or human methods but by Israel's faith and obedience to God's Word. They did what God told them to do.
 - Israel's faith was tested. 13 times they walked around the city and each trip tested their faith. There was no logical reason for them to just walk and keep silent.
 - The Ark of the Covenant was in the center of the procession, symbolizing God's presence.
3. Why 13 times around the city?
 - 13 long looks at an impossible situation and every trip convinced them even more of the impossibility of the situation. Only God could bring down those walls.

4. The lesson for the Christian is this:
 - Saved, yes, God has been in your life but there is still a Jericho before you.
 - The hardest thing for a Christian to do is to get to the place where he/she will admit that the situation is just too big to handle and that only God can do it.
 - God expects nothing more from us than failure.
 - Yet we spend our entire lives trying to bring down the walls of Jerichos by ourselves, trying to prove to ourselves that we don't need God.
 - That Jericho will stand in front of YOU until there comes that moment in your life when you understand that that Jericho was put there by God and you must depend on Him to remove it and that is what He wants from you after all.

III. HUMAN EFFORT WILL NOT BRING DOWN THE CHURCH'S JERICHO'S EITHER

1. Christians have become so used to Jerichos that they don't care anymore.
 - The lost still die and go to hell.
 - Christians have used methods, preaching, publicity, etc., attempting to bring down those things which hinder God's work.
 - Appoint a committee to bring some new method to do God's Work.
2. We forget that God doesn't want our methods, He wants US to do things HIS way.
 - As the residents of Jericho jeered at Israel as they marched by every day, so do those around our Churches laugh at our weak attempts at doing God's business.
 - Israel knew God was with them and they knew they were doing what God said to do.
 - The church has to use the methods of its day as it attempts to reach lost mankind such as revivals, methods, programs, retreats, seminars, etc....WHY?
 - The presence of God is not in those things if they are man's ideas for they are not God's ideas nor is God even needed.
3. Jerichos of our day are conquered from the knees of Christians.
 - When Christians wait for God and listen to God, travailing in prayer, the walls will come down.
 - It takes God to bring conviction to sinners, not our puny methods and weak-minded ideas.

CONCLUSION:

1. How did the walls of Jericho fall?
 - Faith and obedience of God's people.
 - Certainty of God's presence.
 - Shouts and trumpets and most of all the power of God.
2. Can it be that the Lord Jesus is waiting for His Church to become broken and repentant and humble so that it can shout when He comes for it?