

Trust Him

Joshua 6:15-25

This Week's Focus

If you grew up attending church, you've probably heard the story of the battle of Jericho and you may have even sung songs about. What we often miss in this story, however, is that God told Joshua before they began their military campaign that He had already handed Jericho over to them. In other words, before Joshua took his first action as general of the Israelite army, God essentially told him, "You've already won!" And yet, God commanded Joshua to do some very specific things.

If God had already determined that Joshua and the Israelites would be victorious, why did He command them to do all of these specific things? By commanding the Israelites to march around the city thirteen times, He was showing the Israelites a great kindness—He was teaching them to trust Him.

Begin by reading
the passage
through two times.

Joshua 6:15-25

15 Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times. **16** After the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city. **17** But the city and everything in it are set apart to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the men we sent. **18** But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and bring disaster on it. **19** For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the LORD and must go into the LORD's treasury." **20** So the people shouted, and the trumpets sounded. When they heard the blast of the trumpet, the people gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The people advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. **21** They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword—every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey. **22** Joshua said to the two men who had scouted the land, "Go to the prostitute's house and bring the woman out of there, and all who are with her, just as you promised her." **23** So the young men who had scouted went in and brought out Rahab and her father, mother, brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel. **24** They burned up the city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house. **25** However, Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father's household, and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent to spy on Jericho, and she lives in Israel to this day.

Have you ever competed in an important competition (a championship game or a band competition)? How did you go? What was the outcome?

How did you prepare for this competition or game?

Mysterious Providence

Why didn't God destroy the walls of Jericho on day 1? It seems God was teaching His people to trust Him. They had to march by faith, play trumpets by faith, and then eventually shout a victory cry by faith. Hebrews 11:30 says "By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days."

Joshua 6:1-14 (Context)

How was Jericho described in verse 1? What challenges did this situation create for Joshua and the Israelites?

The Lord told Joshua that the city was "handed over" or delivered to them. Why did God use the past tense when the Israelites had not yet conquered the city?

How does Joshua's order given to the people compare to the instructions God gave Joshua? What does that tell you about Joshua?

Why was the ark of the Lord marched around the city? What was the significance of the ark?

Joshua 6:15-21

How do you think the soldiers felt as they marched silently? Explain.

Why did they have to march so much—thirteen times total, once per day for six days and seven times the last day? What did that require of them?

What was Joshua to do with the city of Jericho and its inhabitants (vv. 17-18)? Who in Jericho did God command the Israelites to spare?

Joshua 6:22-25

In what ways did God keep His promises? Why is it important to understand that God keeps His promises?

Now What?

Why does living on mission for God require faith? Why does it require obedience?

What are some of God's purposes for your life that you know from Scripture? What distracts you from focusing on and living out these purposes?

What can you learn from the Israelites' conquest of Jericho in terms of trusting God and living in obedience to Him?

In what areas of your life is it most difficult for you to obey God? What is one step you will take this week to begin living in obedience to God?

Central Truth

God will accomplish
all His purposes—
our role is to obey.

Personal Challenge

Dwell: Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Take note of what the apostle Paul says about God's plans, purposes, and will. Take some time to consider God's purpose in saving you (v. 7) and the implications of this on your daily life. Look closely at verse 11 and consider how knowing that God works all things according to His purposes might give you confidence to live on mission for Him.

Memorize: Joshua 4:24

Pray: Thank God for being strong where you are weak. Thank Him for sending Jesus to die on the cross while you were His enemy because of your sin. Pray that you would grow to trust Him more so that you will live more faithfully and consistently on mission for Him.

Keep on Digging

Read the following verses. Then take notes about what each tells you about the importance of obedience to God and what He promises to those who obey Him in faith.

- Exodus 19:5
- Deuteronomy 11:1
- John 14:15
- Romans 1:5
- Ephesians 6:1-3
- 2 Corinthians 10:5
- James 1:25
- Revelation 14:12