

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was unique about the instructions given for conquering Jericho?
2. Why did the Lord give Joshua all these complicated instructions for the battle?
3. In the Israelites quest to conquer Canaan, why would they attack this most invincible city first?
4. Give examples of “Jerichos” we have to conquer.
5. Identify an area in your life that you have to allow God to conquer?
6. Why is it necessary to pay close attention to the seemingly unimportant details when following directions given by God?
7. Why did God demand that the Israelites destroy almost everyone and everything in Jericho?

SUMMARY:

When we try to combat evil on the devil’s terms we are always defeated. God’s way, the only way sin can be conquered, often does not agree with human reasoning. This method of warfare must have seemed foolish to the people of Jericho, perhaps even to the Israelites, but they were in complete obedience to the instruction given. God can take the foolish things to confound the wise and the weak things to destroy the mighty. (1 Corinthians 1:27)

NOTES:

[SoF:7] We believe that sinners may have salvation by repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. [SoF:9] We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling the believer is empowered to live a Godly life in spiritual unity with Christ.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #3

July 19, 2015

Third Quarter

CONQUERING BY FAITH [SoF:7] AND OBEDIENCE [SoF:9]

LESSON TEXT: *Joshua 6:1-27*

LESSON SETTING: The Lord prepares Joshua to lead the Israelites against the city of Jericho.

TIME: About 1451 B.C.

I. RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS. Joshua 6:1-7, 17-19

- A. Asking. 1 Samuel 3:10; James 1:5-7
 1. Knowing how to ask
 2. Asking with confidence
- B. Faith Needed. [SoF:7]
- C. Waiting for Instruction. Isaiah 25:9
- D. Recognizing Authority.

II. OBEYING THE INSTRUCTIONS. [SoF:9] Joshua 6:8-16

- A. In Faith. Luke 17:14; Hebrews 11:8
- B. Completely. 2 Kings 5:10, 14
- C. In Submission. Luke 22:42
- D. In Unity (vs. 8-9) Ephesian 4:13
- E. Hindrances to Obedience.
 1. Pride - 2 Kings 5:11
 2. Stubbornness - 2 Kings 5:12
 3. Human Reasoning - Proverbs 14:12; Luke 5:4-6
 4. Satan - Ephesians 6:12

III. RESULTS OF OBEDIENCE. Joshua 6:20-27

- A. Blessings
 1. To ourselves (vs. 27) James 1:25; Revelation 22:14
 2. To others (vs. 23)
- B. Victory. 1 John 5:4
- C. Guidance. Proverbs 3:6
- D. Assurance of God’s Will. 1 John 3:22-24

GOLDEN TEXT: *NAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERERS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US.*

Romans 8:37

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Joshua 7:1-26; James 1:14-15
SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Acts 5:1-11; Romans 6:14-23

QUARTERLY THEME: Early Days in Canaan

TOPIC: SIN IN THE CAMP

INTRODUCTION:

Our hearts are battlefields upon which a constant struggle is fought between right and wrong. With the presence of the Holy Spirit we can win the victory over the wrong.

Joshua had victoriously conquered Jericho but was unaware of the awful sin committed by Achan. All men, except he, had obeyed God's command not to take of the spoils. The temptation was too great for Achan and he yielded. How often in one small portion of our heart we harbor or hide, as Achan did, a cherished sin, one that we would dislike anyone else knowing of, but it brings disastrous results. When the devil attacks as did the enemy in Joshua's day, we fail and lose the battle.

Joshua knelt with dust upon his head until evening in humiliation before the Lord because of the defeat. God showed him there was sin in the camp. We also must fall upon knees in prayer until God can show us the sin in our hearts that caused the defeat. Then we must take the hidden sin from out of the tent (heart), bring it forth unto the light, stone and burn it.

Confess and repent!

CENTRAL TRUTH: We must be careful lest success causes us to forget our constant need of God's assistance.

GOLDEN TEXT: *TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART; AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING.*

Proverbs 3:5

The Children of Israel had fallen into a natural mistake. At first, in spite of the Lord's promise to give them the Promised Land, they were afraid to go forward. But after God had given them one victory, they felt able to go ahead on their own; they saw no need to inquire of the Lord. They were sure they could take the next city easily. Then came the humiliating defeat, because one man had sinned and taken forbidden spoil for himself.

In our journey through this life toward our promised heavenly country, we often fall into the same mistakes if we lean to our own understanding, forgetting to fully trust in our Leader. If we cannot see our way through some trial we don't remember that God, having helped before, is able to help farther on. Likewise after a victory won by the help and grace of God, we are liable to press forward on our own with disastrous results. God's Word is full of instructions that would lead us to trust Him and not ourselves. The same apostle who wrote "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall," (1 Corinthians 10:12) also expressed his trust in these words, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 20—26

M. *Joshua Faces Failure. Joshua 7:1-26; James 1:14-15
T. Learning by Experience. Romans 5:1-11
W. Paul's Trials. 2 Corinthians 11:21-30
T. Great Trial and Great Triumph. Matthew 24:20-27
F. Defeat Turned into Victory. Acts 5:29-42
S. Paul Bravely Faces Testing. Acts 20:22-27
S. A Guide to Spiritual Triumph. Philippians 1:12-20

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