

## Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho - NOT

Joshua 5:13-6:27

This passage teaches **major lessons** about God, about life and about the battles all believers face.

- **Lesson #1: RECOGNIZING GOD'S POSITION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWING GOD'S PLAN.**

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" <sup>14</sup>"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" <sup>15</sup>The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. <sup>6:1</sup>Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. <sup>2</sup>Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup>March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup>Have 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. <sup>5</sup>When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in." Joshua 5:13-6:5 (New International Version)

- **Lesson #2: OUR CONTRIBUTION VARIES, BUT GOD'S PRESENCE IS ALWAYS MOST IMPORTANT.**

So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." <sup>7</sup>And he ordered the people, "Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD." <sup>8</sup>When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. <sup>9</sup>The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. <sup>10</sup>But Joshua had commanded the people, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" <sup>11</sup>So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there . . . <sup>14</sup>So on the second day they marched around the city

once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. <sup>15</sup>On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup>The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! Joshua 6:6-11; 14-16 (NIV)

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. Hebrews 11:30 (NIV)

- **Lesson #3: OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMANDS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN VICTORY ITSELF.**

The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!" <sup>17</sup>The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. <sup>18</sup>But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. <sup>19</sup>All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury." <sup>20</sup>When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup>They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys. Joshua 6:16-21 (NIV)

Hebrew = herem = "devoted to the Lord"; "devoted for destruction"

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15 (NIV)

- **Lesson #4: GOD'S MERCY AND SALVATION ARE ALWAYS PRESENT IN THE MIDST OF JUDGMENT.**

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." <sup>23</sup>So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel. <sup>24</sup>Then they burned the whole 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. <sup>25</sup>But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day. Joshua 6:22-25 (NIV)

In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure." Genesis 15:16 (NIV)