

Week 16: The Fall of Jericho - Obedience Brings Victory

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Scripture Reading: Joshua 6:1–27 (KJV)

With Commentary Throughout

Joshua 6:1–2

1” Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

2 “And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.”

Commentary:

Jericho was a mighty fortress, humanly impenetrable. Yet God declared victory before a single weapon was raised. This reminds us that victory belongs to the Lord, and our role is to trust and obey His instructions, even when they seem unconventional.

Joshua 6:3–5

3 “And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.”

4 “And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams’ horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.”

5 “And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.”

Commentary:

God’s battle plan was not military genius but obedient faith. Marching around a city in silence for seven days seems foolish to the world, but it was God’s command. His ways often defy logic to prove that the victory is His alone.

Joshua 6:6–10

6 *“And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD.”*

7 *“And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD.”*

8 *“And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.”*

9 *“And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.”*

10 *“And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.”*

Commentary:

Silence requires discipline. The people had to suppress fear, impatience, and doubt for six days. God often tests our trust in silence before the shout of triumph. Waiting obediently is often the greatest act of faith.

Joshua 6:11–16

11 *“So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.”*

12 *“And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.”*

13 *“And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.”*

14 *“And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.”*

15 *“And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.”*

16 *“And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.”*

Commentary:

Day after day of silent marching could have tempted the people to doubt. But obedience persisted until God’s appointed moment. On the seventh day, at the seventh time, faith met fulfillment, because God always keeps His word.

Joshua 6:17–20

17 *“And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”*

18 *“And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.”*

19 *“But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.”*

20 *“So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”*

Commentary:

Victory came not through power but through faith-filled obedience. God collapsed the walls when His people obeyed to the letter. This teaches us that obedience, even when it seems strange or slow, is the path to breakthrough.

Joshua 6:21–25

21 *“And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.”*

22 *“But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot’s house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye swore unto her.”*

23 *“And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.”*

24 *“And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”*

25 *“And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father’s household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.”*

Commentary:

Judgment and mercy are both seen at Jericho. The city was destroyed in God’s wrath, yet Rahab and her family were saved in God’s mercy. Faith in God’s promise spared her, just as faith in Christ spares us from wrath.

Joshua 6:26–27

26 “And Joshua adjured them at that time, saying, Cursed be the man before the LORD, that riseth up and buildeth this city Jericho: he shall lay the foundation thereof in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it.”

27 “So the LORD was with Joshua; and his fame was noised throughout all the country.”

Commentary:

Joshua’s obedience brought him honor, but more importantly, it glorified the LORD. God exalts those who fear Him and follow Him without question. Victory doesn’t come through cleverness, it comes through reverent obedience.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- What did God tell the people to do around the city?
- When did the walls fall down?
- Who made the victory happen?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why do you think God gave such strange instructions for taking Jericho?
- What would have happened if they only marched for five days?
- Can you think of a time when obedience to God felt hard or confusing?

Adults:

- How does this story challenge your understanding of spiritual warfare?
 - What “walls” in your life might be brought down by quiet, consistent obedience?
 - How can we model the kind of faith Joshua and Israel showed in this story?
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Psalm Reading

Psalm 20:6–8 (KJV)

6 *Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.*

7 *“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”*

8 *“They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.*

Commentary:

Victory does not come from human strength, strategies, or resources, but from the LORD Himself. Israel did not conquer Jericho with siege towers, battering rams, or armies of horsemen. They conquered by doing the unthinkable, walking in circles and blowing trumpets, because God commanded it. The psalmist reminds us here that the true source of security is not found in military might (“chariots and horses”), wealth, or human ingenuity, but in remembering and trusting the name of the LORD.

Notice the contrast: those who trust in worldly power are *brought down and fallen*, but those who trust in the LORD are *risen and stand upright*. The imagery is clear: trust in man collapses, but trust in God establishes. Just as Jericho’s walls fell flat at God’s word, so too do all the strongholds of men fall before His hand. But those who anchor themselves in the LORD rise, not just temporarily, but with strength to stand firm in every season.

Hymn: “Trust and Obey”

By John H. Sammis (1887)

1.

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Chorus:

Trust and obey, for there’s no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;

Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

(Chorus)

3.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

(Chorus)

4.

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, and the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

(Chorus)

5.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go -
Never fear, only trust and obey.

(Chorus)



Family Application Points

1. Obedience Before Understanding:

Teach children that God sometimes asks us to obey before we fully understand. Trust comes first; understanding often follows.

2. Honor God's Commands in Detail:

Obedience is not partial or selective. Like Israel, we must follow God's instructions exactly. Review how your household is obeying God, not just generally, but specifically.

3. Be Silent Before the Shout:

Practice family moments of silence before prayer or reading to reflect on waiting and listening for God's voice, just as Israel marched quietly before the victory.

4. **Identify “Jerichos” in Life:**

Discuss any personal or family situations that feel like walled cities, strongholds that seem impossible to overcome. Commit them to God and obey Him step by step.

5. **Sing in Faith, Not in Sight:**

Sing "Trust and Obey" throughout the week, not because you see results yet, but because you trust God to bring victory in His way and time.

A Sabbath Feast Prayer: (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Sabbath - a holy day of rest, joy, and renewal. As we partake in this meal, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for Your provision and peace. Let this table reflect the peace of Your Kingdom and the love that binds our household together in Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



Closing Prayer

Lord God of Heaven and Earth, You are the One who brings down walls and defeats the strongholds of man. Help us to trust and obey You, even when Your commands seem strange to the world. Teach us to follow You in faith, to wait on You in silence, and to shout for joy when You deliver us. May our family walk in faithful obedience, and may every act of trust bring glory to Your name. We thank You for Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, through whom every victory is won. In His name we pray, Amen.