

Marching Into Victory: Lessons from Joshua and the Battle of Jericho

The story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho offers powerful lessons about obedience, faith, and trusting God's plan even when it doesn't make sense to us. This biblical account shows us how God prepares us for victory through His Word and requires our complete obedience to His instructions.

How God Prepares Us for Battle

Before Joshua ever faced the walls of Jericho, God was already preparing him for what lay ahead. God knows our future before we even get there, which is why He equips us in advance.

God told Joshua to meditate on His Word day and night - when you wake up and before you go to bed. This wasn't just casual reading, but intentional study with the purpose of observing and doing everything written in Scripture. The promise was clear: "then you will have good success" and "your way will be prosperous."

What Does It Mean to Be Strong and Courageous?

God repeatedly told Joshua to "be strong and courageous." This wasn't just about physical strength, but mental and spiritual fortitude. Being strong means:

- Standing firm in your mind and will to do God's will
- Remaining steadfast even when everyone else is going with the flow
- Saying no to loved ones when they're not right
- Being the same person whether at church, home, or in public

It takes a strong person to stand against the crowd and follow God's instructions, especially when they don't make immediate sense.

Why Did God Use Rahab?

Before the battle of Jericho, Joshua sent spies into the city. They were protected by Rahab, a woman known for her sinful lifestyle. Yet God used her because she recognized that God was with His people and chose to help them.

This teaches us that God can use anyone - regardless of their past - when they come into the knowledge of who He is. Rahab and her household were spared because she helped the men of God. Sometimes the people we least expect become instruments in God's hands.

What Can We Learn from the Silent March?

The most striking aspect of the Jericho battle was the requirement for complete silence. For six days, the Israelites marched around the city walls without speaking a word. They couldn't complain, rejoice, or make any noise.

Why the Silence Was Necessary

Sometimes we must hold our peace and allow the Lord to fight for us. The silent march served multiple purposes:

- It required complete obedience to God's instructions
- It created psychological warfare - the enemy couldn't understand what was happening
- It demonstrated faith in God's plan even when it seemed unusual
- It taught the importance of listening rather than talking

How can you hear God's instructions if you're constantly talking? How can you grasp what He's telling you to do if you're making noise?

When Is It Time to Shout?

On the seventh day - the number of completion and perfection - after marching around seven times, Joshua finally gave the command: "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!"

After being restricted from speaking, imagine how good it felt to finally open their mouths in victory! When you've been restricted from something and get it back, you appreciate it more. Their unified shout brought down the walls, and God gave them complete victory.

How Do We Apply This to Our Lives Today?

There are seasons when God calls us to be quiet - not doing as much as we're used to, not being as outspoken as before. We might not understand why, but God is ahead of us and knows what's coming.

Walking by Faith When We Don't Have the Full Picture

Sometimes God gives us the complete outline like He did with Joshua. Other times, we must walk by faith without seeing the full plan. Either way, obedience is required.

We often want to do things our way and make our own plans, but we must always align with God's will. As we mature, it becomes even more important to say, "Not my will, Lord, but Yours."

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What Does March Mean for Us?

In this month of March, we're called to march forward in obedience. Like the Israelites who marched around Jericho, we must:

- Move forward in obedience to God's instructions
- Trust His timing even when we don't understand
- Remain silent when He calls for silence
- Shout with victory when He gives the command

March your way into victory by being obedient to whatever God is telling you to do right now.

Life Application

This week, identify an area where God is calling you to "march in silence" - perhaps holding your tongue in a difficult situation, waiting patiently for His timing, or simply being obedient to His Word even when it doesn't make sense. Remember that your obedience today is preparing you for the victory God has already planned for your tomorrow.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is there an area where I'm trying to fight with my words instead of letting God fight for me?
- What is God asking me to be obedient to that I've been resisting?
- How can I better prepare myself through His Word for the battles ahead?
- Am I being strong and courageous in following God's will, even when others disagree?

Like Joshua, be strong and courageous. Stay in God's Word, move in obedience, and trust that He has already given you the victory.

