



battle sequence

TEACHING SUMMARY

The nation of Israel stood together, hearts full of expectation. They had crossed the swollen river on dry ground. They had renewed their covenant with the Lord through circumcision and the Passover meal. Only days before, Joshua had looked into the eyes of the Commander of the Lord's army. Now, with boots firmly on the ground, they knew this was the day they had waited for. Jericho stood before them, and the conquest of the Promised Land was beginning.

From a distance, the city looked impossible. Joshua 6:1 says Jericho was tightly shut up. No one entered and no one left. Its massive walls rose high, its gates were strong, and its warriors stood ready. Human eyes saw only a fortress that could not be taken. One very strong, very intact, very fortified city blocked their way.

Then the Lord spoke, and His words carried a promise that seemed too wonderful to be real. "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and its mighty men of valor."

He spoke in the past tense. The victory was already complete. Joshua's eyes showed him thick walls and armed soldiers, but God's voice declared the city already belonged to His people. The tension between sight and promise hung heavy in the air.

The Lord then gave them His plan.

"March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Seven priests will carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark.

On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and when the priests make a long blast with the trumpets, all the people shall shout with a great shout. Then the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, every man straight before him."

No siege ramps. No battering rams. No clever military strategy. Only simple marching with the priests and the Ark of the Covenant leading the way. The message was clear and tender: this battle belongs to the Lord, not to you.

Joshua told the people exactly what God had said. The soldiers glanced at one another in wonder. Were they really just going to walk around the city? Yet they obeyed.

For six mornings the armed men, the priests with their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord circled Jericho once. They walked in silence except for the steady sound of the rams' horns. Inside the city, the people watched with growing fear and confusion. Each day the same procession passed by, then returned to camp.

On the seventh day, they rose early. This time they marched around the city seven times. On the seventh lap the priests blew one long, loud blast. Joshua called out, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"

The people lifted a mighty shout.

At that moment, the walls of Jericho fell flat. The Israelites walked straight ahead into the city, just as the Lord had promised. Every man went forward. The city was theirs.

Victory was total and complete.

Beloved, let this story settle gently into your heart. The walls of Jericho are more than ancient history. They show us how our faithful God still works in the battles of our own lives.

First, remember that victory is already assured, because this war is supernatural.

God's opening words to Joshua were full of certainty: "I have given Jericho into your hand." The victory had already been given. It was never about human weapons or clever plans. Scripture reminds us we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against spiritual powers. The horse may be prepared for battle, but victory belongs to the Lord. Our weapons are not carnal.

The Lord will never join our fights when we rely on anger, manipulation, or self-effort. But He gladly partners with us when we rest in what He has already done by His Spirit. When we fight from the place of "God has already given," we walk in certain victory.

Second, give yourself fully to whatever He has assigned to you, even if it feels small.

The Lord did not say He had given them the entire land in one moment. He said He had given them Jericho, one city, one step at a time.

In God's eyes, there are no unimportant battles. What seems minor to us can become the very place where His faithfulness shines. Think of Shammah in Second Samuel. He stood alone in a field of lentils and defended it when others fled. The Lord gave him a great victory right there in an ordinary bean field.

Jesus taught that the one who is faithful in little will be faithful in much. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your heart as unto the Lord. Your Jericho today may be an act of obedience, a hard conversation, or a daily struggle. Whatever it is, give yourself to it faithfully. God sees, and He honors every step.

Third, trust Him even when the answer does not come quickly.

For six long days the people saw no change. The walls stood firm. The ground remained. Those inside Jericho may have laughed at the strange parade. Still, Israel kept marching.

This is often the hardest part of walking with God: continuing in obedience when nothing seems to happen. Day after day they simply did what He had said. In that persistence, the Lord was shaping their hearts. He was teaching them sanctification, abiding, trust, waiting, and rest.

It takes deep faith to keep doing the last thing God told you when your eyes see nothing. Yet Scripture gently encourages us in these seasons. You have need of patience, so that after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise. The testing of your faith produces patience, and patience must finish its work.

The delay was not only about falling walls. It was about forming hearts that could truly trust God, even when they could not see His hand. Your Jericho may take time, but every faithful step is shaping you into the likeness of Christ.

Fourth, you are invited to participate even though the battle is the Lord's.

Here lies a beautiful mystery. God says, "I have given." We hear, "You shall march. You shall shout."

If the people had stayed in their tents, the walls would not have fallen. The victory belonged to the Lord, yet living faith moves its feet. Hebrews tells us that by faith the walls of Jericho fell after the people had marched around them for seven days.

Paul writes it this way: work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. God works in us. We work it out with Him. His sovereignty never removes our responsibility to obey.

Faith that truly believes will always step forward.

Fifth, expect the plan to feel unconventional, because faith does not always make sense to our minds.

Marching silently. Carrying trumpets instead of swords. Shouting instead of building siege engines. Nothing about it looked like war.

That was exactly the point. God's ways are higher than our ways. He chose a plan that seemed foolish so that no flesh could glory in its own strength. He chooses the weak and foolish things of this world to shame the wise.

Faith does not wait for visible proof. There was no sign that six silent laps were weakening those thick walls, yet the people obeyed. We, too, are called to walk by faith and not by sight, trusting that God's word is more real than what our eyes can see.

Sixth, finish the assignment completely.

On the seventh day, they did not quit after six laps. They kept going until they had circled the city seven times. Only then did they shout.

The Christian life contains moments that tempt us to stop just short of the finish. But the Lord calls us to endurance. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Fight the good fight. Finish the race. Keep the faith.

This is the heart of the abundant life in Christ. We do not fight for victory. We fight from victory. The cross won the war. Yet we still lace up our boots, march in simple obedience, and participate with open hearts, even when the way feels strange, even when progress is slow, even when it costs us dearly.

This is the upside-down kingdom of our King.

There is one more important lesson in Joshua chapter 6 that we will explore together next time when we look at the devoted things. For now, let these truths rest deep in your spirit.