

**"The Walk of Faith"**

**Part 21**

**11:1-40**

**Introduction:** Tonight in our study of the book of Hebrews we have come to one of the most amazing demonstrations of faith which we find in the Old Testament.

**I. The Examples of Faith**

**Part 18**

**A. The Victory at Jericho**

**Notice Hebrews 11:30**

Here we see that it was by faith that the walls of Jericho AFTER THEY WERE COMPASSED ABOUT SEVEN DAYS. The end of this very is SO VERY IMPORTANT which we will see. There is a well of spiritual riches for us in this event. Let us go back to the book of Joshua and look closely at what happened at the battle of Jericho. The event is recorded in Joshua 6 but before we look at what took place there we need a brief introduction leading up to this battle.

Israel had been through several trials in the first 5 chapters of Joshua. Moses had died and they were then given a new leader who was Joshua. Their hearts were broken over the death of Moses.

**Deuteronomy 34:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.*

<sup>6</sup> *And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.*

<sup>7</sup> *And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.*

<sup>8</sup> *And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.*

They were then presented with their new leader and the people graciously accepted Joshua as their God appointed leader.

**Joshua 1:16-18**

*<sup>16</sup> And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.*

*<sup>17</sup> According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.*

*<sup>18</sup> Whosoever he be that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only be strong and of a good courage.*

Following this Joshua sent 2 men to spy on the city of Jericho and he sent these men secretly because of what had happened with the 12 spies which Moses sent out in Numbers 13. After the return of the spies Israel was faced with the challenge of crossing the Jordan River. For 3 days Israel camped at the river's edge realizing they were helpless on their own when it came to crossing the river which was at flood stage. Then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day God held back the waters as all the people crossed completely over the Jordan on dry ground. Then in chapter 5 they were faced with a very painful time as God required all the males to be circumcised.

Then we come to chapter 6 and we can see it. It is a massive fortress blocking the way into the land of Canaan. The walls of the fortress seem to reach to the heavens. Remember the first report of the 12 spies?

**Deuteronomy 1:28**

*<sup>28</sup> Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.*

Jericho was the city which guarded the entrance into the southern part of Canaan. So Israel now finds themselves between the flooded Jordan and the fortress of Jericho.

They have had one test after another and in order to get into Canaan they must conquer the city of Jericho.

**Application:**

When I look at the path which God gave His people to walk I am reminded of how God often allows us to be tested time after time. Sometimes we just get through one test and

we find ourselves faced with another. It is not because God enjoys seeing us stress out in these situations. The trials are to strengthen our faith just as what Israel faced was to strengthen their faith.

**James 1:2-5**

<sup>2</sup> *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

<sup>3</sup> *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

<sup>4</sup> *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

<sup>5</sup> *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

**Romans 5:1-4**

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

<sup>2</sup> *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

<sup>3</sup> *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*

<sup>4</sup> *And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*

If we look into the life of every believer in the Scriptures we would see that each and every one faced trials and storms for the purpose of building endurance by strengthening their faith.

Now let us walk with Israel as they face the fortress of Jericho.

**I. The Orders**

**Notice Joshua 6:1-5**

Jericho was locked up tight because of the people of Israel. Jericho was protected by 2 walls which surrounded the city. The walls were so large that Rahab's house was built upon the town wall.

**Joshua 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> *Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.*

Israel is now facing this giant fortress with no weapons of war. They have no catapults, no battering rams, no bows or arrows, and no swords. They have nothing to go against this city, humanly speaking.

God orders were that the men of war were to circle the city once a day for 6 days. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day they were to circle the city 7 times and then the priests were to blow a long blast with the trumpets. When the long blast was heard the people were to shout and the walls would then fall down flat to the ground.

Can you imagine the thoughts which passed through the minds of the people? I am sure there were some young men who had been anticipating a battle when they arrived at Canaan. They may have trained for quite some time in the years leading up to the entrance. Now the command is given and they are required only to march and shout. What kind of military strategy is this? They would not get to flex their muscles even a little.

Application:

This is a picture of the battles we face in our lives as believers.

## **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

<sup>4</sup> *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

## **II. The Submission**

### **Notice Joshua 6:6-21**

GOD delivered the city of Jericho into the hands of people of Israel. There are several lessons which we need to see in all of this. Before we get to these lessons let me just point out that Israel stood in a very trying position. When they crossed the Jordan they were committed and now the water had begun to flow again so there was no going back. Now in front of them stood the fortress city of Jericho that threatened to keep them from the Promised Land.

This is a picture of the challenges that stand before all believers to keep them from entering into God's rest.

1. **God often allows us to come face to face with challenges that are beyond our ability to conquer and this is so that we will trust in Him and then He will receive all the glory. Ultimately the tests of our faith are to manifest our weakness and God's power.**

Remember God's Words to Gideon?

### **Judges 7:1-2**

*Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.*

*<sup>2</sup> And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.*

Then there are God's Words to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12.

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

*<sup>7</sup> And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

*<sup>8</sup> For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.*

*<sup>9</sup> And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

*<sup>10</sup> Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*

### **2. Faith MUST wait upon God.**

Israel had to walk around the city each day for 7 days and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day God would give the victory. Therefore they had to be patient as they waited upon God.

### **Isaiah 40:29-31**

<sup>29</sup> He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

<sup>30</sup> Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

<sup>31</sup> But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

3. Faith MUST walk in complete obedience to God's Word.

Hebrews 11:30

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

There are two factors involved in such obedience:

- a. To obey God, we must know what His Word says about our situation.
- b. Knowledge of God's Word must be followed by obedience, no matter how much it goes against conventional wisdom.

**Conclusion:**

The Hebrew believers were facing a huge obstacle in their way to entering into God's rest, it was Judaism. But if they were to walk in obedience to God's Word and trust Him the walls of Judaism would eventually fall to the ground.

We will face giant walls in our walk with Jesus and in those times we must rest our faith in the promises and the provisions of God. We must exercise obedience and not allow others to deter us from trusting in God.