

### 3-23-25 Courage Over Fear: When Obedience Doesn't Make Sense

**Week 4 (4 weeks till Easter)**

**Text: Joshua 6:1-15**

**Topic(s):** Obedience, March, Deliverance

**Big Idea of the Message:** Because God is infinitely wise, He works in ways we never expect, turning the unexpected into something greater than we could have imagined.

**Application Point:** When we follow God's Word instead of relying on our own understanding, we unlock victories and success that only He can bring—far greater than anything we could accomplish alone.

How do you feel when someone asks you to do something that makes no sense?

Perhaps you resist, question, or search for a better way. But then, looking back, you realize that what seemed illogical at the time was the best course of action.

That's how it often is with God. His ways are higher, His thoughts are greater, and sometimes, what He asks us to do seems completely unreasonable. But when we trust and obey, we see His power at work.

**“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9  
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9**

This was exactly the case for Joshua and the Israelites as they stood before Jericho—an enormous fortress with walls so high and thick that it seemed impenetrable. The city was tightly shut, the people inside confident that no one could break through.

But instead of devising a battle plan filled with strategic attacks and military tactics, God's plan was different. He didn't call them to fight. He didn't call them to siege the city. He called them to march.

Imagine their confusion. March? Really? No battering rams. No swords drawn. Just silent obedience, circling the city for six days. And on the seventh day, circling seven times, blowing the trumpets, and shouting in faith. That was the plan!

From a human perspective, it made no sense. But God wasn't testing their military strength—He was testing their faith.

**Read Joshua 6:1-2.**

## **I. Remember Who is in Charge**

- When you face a battle, the first thing you must remember is who is in command.
- This was never Israel's battle to win—it was God's.
- The presence of the Ark of the Covenant at the center of the march symbolized that this was God's fight. The priests blowing the trumpets signified God's presence.
- This was an utterly foolish thing to do from the human point of view.
- I'm sure the soldiers on Jericho's walls were amused and delighted to hear some live music every day.
- It was not about Israel's strategy. It was about their surrender to His way.
- So often, when we face impossible situations, we feel small, outnumbered, and overwhelmed. But God is saying to us what He said to Joshua:

### **"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10**

- The battle belongs to the Lord. When you remember that, you stop striving in your own strength and start trusting in His.

## **II. The Key to Victory is Obedience**

### **• Read Joshua 6:3-5.**

- The walls of Jericho did not fall because of the march or the shout. They fell because the people of God obeyed exactly as He commanded.
- Many times, God gives instructions that don't make sense to us. He calls us to:
- Forgive when we want revenge.
- Sacrificially give when we feel we don't have enough.
- Step out in faith when we want all the details first.
- But obedience is the key to seeing the power of God unleashed in our lives.
- Joshua didn't explain to the people the full plan from day one. He simply led them one day at a time. They marched without seeing any signs of progress, the walls did not crack, the enemy did not surrender.
- Yet, they kept marching.
- Some of you have been praying, waiting, and marching in obedience, but nothing seems to be changing. You're wondering, "God, are You even working?"
- Let me encourage you: just because you don't see progress doesn't mean God isn't working.
- Keep marching. Keep obeying. Keep trusting.
- Because when God says the walls will fall, they will fall.

### III. Obedience Comes from Faith

- **Read Joshua 6:6-16.**
- Obedience is not always easy. It requires faith to trust God when you don't understand.

**“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.” Hebrews 11:30**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (pastor/theologian d.1945): “For faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience.”

- Faith is not about understanding how God will do it—it's about believing that He will.

Faith says:

- Even though I don't see the breakthrough, I believe it's coming.
- Even though my circumstances seem impossible, I trust God's promise.
- Even though I feel like giving up, I will keep marching in obedience.
- Some of us are like the African antelope (in the zoo)—capable of jumping great heights but held back by a low wall because we refuse to leap unless we see where we will land.
- We find it hard to take the leap of faith because we prefer the comfort of living by sight.
- Faith is stepping forward before we see the answer. Faith is trusting God even when the walls still stand.
- The real battle is not the visible battle we see. It is the invisible battle that we fight within us. Can we trust God?

### IV. Obedient Faith is What Saves

- **Read Joshua 6:17-20.**
- In the midst of Jericho's destruction, one part of the wall remained standing.
- That was the part where Rahab and her family lived.
- Rahab, a former prostitute, was saved because she placed her faith in God and obeyed His instructions.
- Her story reminds us of that God never forgets those who trust Him. His timing is perfect, His plans are precise, and His power never fails.

When you face battles in your life, remember this:

- God is in control.
- Victory is in obedience.

- Faith is the key.
- Your walls will fall.
- Maybe you're facing walls that seem impossible to break through—walls of fear, addiction, broken relationships, financial struggles, or spiritual battles.
- They feel unmovable. But just like Jericho, they are not stronger than God.
- When you walk in obedience, when you trust in His word, when you lift up a shout of faith, the walls must come down.

**“The Lord has given you the city!” (Joshua 6:16)**

- This must be the cry of your faith—not after the victory, but before. A faith that believes God has already won the battle.

**“Whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” Matthew 21:22**

- The walls in your life are already crumbling—even if you can't see it yet.
- So today, I challenge you: Will you trust Him? Will you obey Him? Will you believe before you see?
- Because when you do, the walls will fall.

**Conclusion**

**My friends, the time for resistance is over.** The strongholds of doubt, fear, and self-sufficiency that have kept Jesus at a distance are already crumbling. The prayers of the faithful have shaken those walls, and the voice of the Holy Spirit is calling out to you even now.

Will you answer?

Jesus is standing at the door of your heart, knocking—not with force, but with love. Not with condemnation, but with grace. He is not asking you to fix yourself first. He is not waiting for you to become "good enough." He simply says, **"Open the door."**

**“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20**

Let this be the moment you surrender. Let this be the moment the fortress falls, and the King of Glory steps in. When you open your heart to Him, you will find not only forgiveness but freedom, not only salvation but a Savior who walks with you, strengthens you, and loves you beyond measure.

So, I ask you today:

**Will you let Him in?** Will you cast aside the chains of resistance and step into the abundant life He has for you?

The choice is yours. **Don't wait another moment.** Lay down your defenses, open the door, and welcome Jesus in—because where He enters, life begins. Amen.

**We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. 2 Corinthians 10:4**

**praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, Ephesians 6:18**