

FACING JERICO
JOSHUA 6:1-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In order to experience all that God had promised, Israel had to overcome a big obstacle (Jos. 5:13).
- B. Ultimately, Joshua and the Israelites were able to overcome the city of Jericho (Jos. 6:20-21).
- C. The account of Israel and Jericho is a great story about faith and obedience. However, sometimes we miss out of some of the valuable lessons contained within about our Almighty God.

GOD SEES OPPORTUNITIES WHERE WE SEE OBSTACLES (6:1-2).

- A. For many, Jericho represented strength and power and a great obstacle to overcome.
- B. God didn't see the city of Jericho as an obstacle to avoid but as an opportunity to shine His glory.
- C. We need to take our eyes off our obstacles and start looking at our God (Psa. 46:10, Matt. 14:22-33).

GOD DOESN'T NEED US TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES BUT HE WANTS TO INCLUDE US (6:3-5).

- A. God had already given Jericho into the hand of Joshua and Israel. He didn't need Israel to overthrow it.
- B. God could accomplish His will without us, but he chose to include us (Eph. 2:10; Matt. 28:19-20).
- C. We need to look for opportunities to serve others and glorify God.

GOD MEANS WHAT HE SAYS AND SAYS WHAT HE MEANS (6:6-19).

- A. This was a weird military strategy that made absolutely no earthly sense whatsoever.
- B. Joshua and Israel believed God and took Him at His Word and did exactly what He commanded.
- C. We need to obey all God has commanded us, even when it may not make sense (Rev. 22:17-18; Jn. 14:21; 15:14).

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS PROMISES (6:20-27).

- A. God had promised to give Jericho to Israel long before the battle ever started (Jos. 6:2; 16).
- B. Rahab the harlot and her household were spared because of their faithful obedience (6:22-23; 2:21).
- C. We need to live our lives in obedient faith so we can experience all the wonderful blessings God has promised us (Mk. 16:16; Mt. 10:22).

CONCLUSION:

- A. The story of Jericho is more than just a feel good story about Israel's faith.
- B. Jericho is a story about the awesome and faithful God you and I are privileged to serve.
- C. May we come to understand and appreciate our heavenly Father more and more every day.