



Courage for the Battle

(Joshua 6:1-27)

Main Idea: If we align ourselves with God, victory is assured.

Connect: How far into the future have you planned? Tomorrow? I'll be lucky to make it through today.

I have a short-term plan for this week.

I have a 5-year plan, a 10-year plan and/or a 30-year plan.

I have worked through my plan and met a goal.

Discuss

1. The battle of Jericho is a very familiar story. One many Christians have grown up hearing. Did anything from the sermon change your perspective on the battle or strike you as new or different? Explain ...
2. The Lord tells Joshua that Jericho will be conquered and gives him very specific instructions on how it will be done (v. 1-5)
 - Currently God isn't asking us to defeat Jericho, but yet we fight battles every day (Ephesians 6:12). Share with someone a battle that you're facing and how things would change if you knew your battle has already been won.
3. The Israelites follow God's instructions during the battle (v. 6-16)
 - The Israelites marched around the city once a day for six days, with the Ark of the Covenant and priests who were blowing rams horns. The Bible tells us the people inside Jericho were terrified. Why do you think God chose to do it this way?
 - The Israelites attack on Jericho would have looked more like a religious festival than a battle. God had made a great show of his power to the Israelites, and was now showing the Canaanites his mighty hand. What would the people witnessing the army's action have learned about the nature of God?
 - How does God show himself to those who do not yet know him? How did God show himself to you?
4. The Israelites capture the town and completely destroy it, with the exception of Rahab and her family (v. 17-27).
 - God tells the Israelite that all plunder would be dedicated to Him. What was he trying to instill in the Israelites by requiring that the items taken from the town be His, and His alone?
 - We know that God holds Rahab in a place of honor for her faithfulness, and that he integrated her family into His family. What lessons can we learn from her life?
 - God instructs the Israelites to destroy everything and everyone, which in a western mindset seems severe. Why do you think he required complete annihilation?
 - Is there anything in your life that God destroyed when He saved you?

Live it Out

- What goals are you currently working toward? Are these goals aligned with God's purposes?
- Name one thing that is something God needs to remove from your life. Place it on an index, pray for God to remove it from your life then rip it up and throw it away.