

It Has to be God's Will and Not Mine

Be Bold

Joshua 6:1-27

November 17, 2019

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

Joshua had taken Israel across the Jordan. Now it was time to take a fortified Canaanite city called Jericho. But the plan God gave him, by human standards, wasn't logical. Joshua must have felt like he was totally out of his comfort zone, but a decision needed to be made. Which would he put first: God's will or his own? If he put his will first, he'd do this a totally different way. He'd use his vast military training. He'd strike with weapons of war. If he did it God's way, he could be a laughing stock. They all might die. What would he do?

Joshua's dilemma is our dilemma. It's easy to do things our own way. But when we boldly say *yes* to God, we become kingdom-builders. People get saved. Let's be bold and put God first. Let each of us be able to say: *It has to be God's will and not mine.*

Key Scripture – Joshua 6:1-27

The Fall of Jericho

6 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. ²And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. ³You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. ⁴Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him." ⁶So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams'

horns before the ark of the LORD.”⁷ And he said to the people, “Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD.”

⁸And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them. ⁹The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. ¹⁰But Joshua commanded the people, “You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.” ¹¹So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

¹²Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. ¹³And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the LORD walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually. ¹⁴And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.

¹⁵On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city. ¹⁷And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. ¹⁸But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. ¹⁹But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD.” ²⁰So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. ²¹Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

²²But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.”

²³So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. ²⁵But Rahab the prostitute and her father’s household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

²⁶Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, “Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho.

“At the cost of his firstborn shall he
lay its foundation,
and at the cost of his youngest son
shall he set up its gates.”

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

Additional Scripture –

1 Timothy 2:3-4: This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Matthew 28:20: “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Romans 10:9: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12: You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Proverbs 3:9-10: Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. This battle of Jericho was a major event, and it was no small feat for the men God had assembled to do the job. What are some of the bold characteristics you see in this passage of the men whom God had called to carry out this victory?



2. What priorities right now in your life are you struggling with that sometimes come before God when it comes to your generosity or to your time?

3. In order for followers of God like Joshua and Paul to be the men they were and accomplish great things for God, they had to boldly stay committed to following the ways of God. Do you feel you are boldly committed to following the ways of God in terms of generosity? In what ways are you weak, uncommitted, or wavering?

4. As you think about the priority of your generosity to God's Kingdom, do you feel you are committed to generosity above your other financial priorities? Another way to put this might be: Does your level of spending (or saving) control your level of giving, or does your level of giving control your level of spending (or saving)? Be as honest as you possibly can.

5. Are you prepared to make a pledge to the Illuminate initiative?

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

Remain bold and committed Even After Victory: Joshua 22:1-34

Joshua demanded that his people submit to God and stay committed to him even after winning a huge victory. Even after God allows us to finish the first phase of our Illuminate initiative, we must boldly commit to stay humble and prayerful.

