

Falling Walls - Part 2

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Joshua 6:1-11 (NIV)

Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the Lord and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the Lord." When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the Lord went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the Lord's covenant followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" So he had the ark of the Lord carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

Such a great story. God uses these stories to impact our lives.

Interesting Joshua's use of the command - "don't speak"

Sshhhh

Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

How do you keep all these people quiet? Why do you keep all these people quiet?

Joshua is the new leader. He saw the good and the bad during Moses' leadership.

Here he is having a moment as they are about to enter the promised land. He's thinking back to the last time when they faced this moment. When Moses sent in 12. 10 said we can't do it.

2 said we can...Joshua was one of the 2.

The people listened to the 10. To the noise, the chatter.

Joshua learned that too much talk, too much negativity will weaken your faith and you'll stop seeing what God sees.

So this time Joshua sent in 2 trusted people.

Why 7 days and why 7 times around the walls of Jericho?
Look at Genesis 1. Something new was being born. Just like in Genesis.
You're coming into the promise that I've prepared for you.

3 thoughts on why Joshua's instruction to be quiet was genius.
Why we need to be still and quiet before God today. **To sshhhh!**

#1 In the quiet God changes our perspective

Vs 2 - see, look. Joshua saw a fortified city.

This is a great moment. What do you do when the way God talks about your life and future, when what you see doesn't look like that? Trust God's perspective.

God speaks into the future. "Look at what I have done for you"

Isaiah 54:1 (NIV)

"Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the Lord.

Praise as if it's already been done!

The enemy wants to use our problems to keep us in lockdown.

Let's declare we're not quitting!

Imagine if you could live your life from the future. To live from that perspective.

If you knew what was going to happen what would you do differently? Stepped out more in faith.

Jericho was tightly shut up. Sometimes the thing that you're scared of is scared of you. Let the Holy Spirit be shifting your perspective.

#2 In the quiet God magnifies the promise

Jericho's fortified walls...the intent was to stop the Israelites advancing.
The temptation was to surrender

In the quiet God is magnifying the promise.

God wants us to see what we can't see. To see the promise.

Joshua 3:5 (NIV)

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

God will cause you to see, to believe, to dream!! It's done.

Let's settle ourselves today...let God magnify the promise. To see the promise and not the problem.

#3 In the quiet God transforms us in the process

Those 7 days were the process and God was transforming them.

God wants us to keep turning up for the process. Even when we're not seeing anything.

Let him turn us from spectators to participators. We're created to be involved.

I'm involved. I'm joining in. To be present in the process. To pray, to give, to encourage, to serve.

Don't just watch and wait. Get involved. Participation is the process.

7 days of process. Walking, trumpets and quietness.

Participation equals process. Are you ready to play your part?

God is the one to tear down the walls today.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important at times to be quiet, to be still?
- Has your perspective ever been changed by God/His word?
- Why is the process so important? Would it have been better for God to show them each day that what they were doing was working?