

Paul Bengener_Falling Walls_Pt3_(C)

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SPEAKERS

Paul Bengener



Paul Bengener 00:00

I want to jump straight into the scriptures today and I want to read from Joshua chapter six is the passage fall of Jericho that we've been studying and thinking about. I want to read verses one to five. And then verses 12 to 20. Joshua six one says, Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites, no one went out and no one came in. And then the Lord said to Joshua, see, I have delivered Jericho into your hands along with its King and it's fighting men march around the city once with all the armed men do this for six days, have seven priests carry trumpets of ram's horns, in front of the ark, on the seventh day marched around the city seven times when the with the priests blowing the trumpets, when you hear them sound, a long bass blast on the trumpets of the whole army give a loud shout, and then the walls of the city will collapse, and the army will go up, and everyone straight in. And then verses 12 to 20. Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests took up the Ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward marching before the Ark of the Lord, and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them. And the rear guard followed the Ark of the Lord while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day, they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day, they circled the city for seven times, the seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast Joshua commanded the army shout, for the Lord has given you the city, the city and all is, is in it ought to be devoted to the Lord only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with us in her house shall be spared, because she hid the

spise we sent, keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring them bring about your own destruction by taking them otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction, and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron, are sacred to the Lord and must go into his Treasury. When the trumpet sounded, the army shouted. And at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the walls collapsed. And so everyone went straight in and they took the city.

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Paul Benger 02:33

Lord, I pray for our time together today, I pray that you'll speak to each and every one of us. I thank you, you've got something to say to every person who can hear my voice today. In Jesus name, amen.

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Paul Benger 02:46

You know, I made a confession this week. And I want to say it again this morning. And today. It's this that I don't like face mask. You know, recently I've been shopping in around 40% of people in the queues are wearing face masks, and I don't like it. That said, I also don't like seat belts, in cars, or on planes, but I wear them because they protect me, and they protect others. Another reason I'm not really a fan of face masks is the science seems to be very inconclusive about the difference they make, it seems from what I'm reading, that they offer no protection to me whatsoever. But they may offer a really small amount to others. Even so, if there was a clear instruction, if our government told us to wear them, I would wear them I'd obey. I also started thinking a little this week, a little more about poorer countries and how they coping. I was thinking about the compassion children that we sponsor, I was thinking about the sponsor children from our family, and church family. And that many of you sponsor too, I was thinking about watoto children in fight with toto should have been here around this time. And we've not even been able to do that. I also saw some reports from countries like India of daily workers, workers who go into the marketplace or into the field, waiting for somebody to come and pick them up and give them a day's work. And of course, there's nothing. Nobody's collecting them. Nobody's picking them up. Well, the report talks about families and how social distancing is impossible, because they're large families. And often they live in just one room. And I just saw them queuing for hours in baking heat just to see if they could get one meal. And it would be only the only meal that they would have that day. Sometimes when you think about those things, you can get tempted to feel guilty. Or you feel selfish, because right now, you're doing the very best you can to survive the very, very best you can to minimise the hurt and until look after yourself and your immediate family. But as I said this week in my devotion, I believe it's so important that we Take care of ourselves and put our mask on first, in order to help others. In 1921 Chequers, which is a country residence for the

Prime Minister of Britain, was a gift to our country. And an Act of Parliament that went along with this gift, set out the use of the estate. And it said this, the better the health of our rulers, the more sanely they will rule. I believe that this series Falling Walls is God given. And it's given to us to keep us healthy, to make sure that we're healthy, and that we're strong, and that we come through this well, is so that we can come through together as a church, and also to positioners for greater influence. I believe, just like that Act of Parliament said, the better our health, the more we'll be able to help those around us. I believe that these walls will fall, they must fall, because when they fall, we will be better place to live personally, in our families in our church, and will be better placed to help others.

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Paul Benger 06:07

The title of this message today is worship will tear down the walls. The three weeks we've been talking about the walls of Jericho, coming down. And today we're looking at the worship that actually finally brought those walls down. Last week, we looked at the command to be quiet for seven days. And the week long process God had the people go through, and today we're jumping to day seven. day seven is the moment of truth. They marched around the city for six days. They've marched around the city six times on the final day, the seventh day, and it's now the moment of truth. It's a moment of great tension. It's a moment just like right now of great tension, but also have many questions. The Israelites, I'm sure had many questions maybe like we have have, what will God do? Will God do what he said he will do? Will it actually happen? Will these walls rarely come down? Will it happen the way I think maybe they had the question like many of us have got in this season, will I be protected? Am I safe? This after all? is a fortress? This after all? is there's going to be some kind of battle. Will the people close to me be protected? I wonder if they asked the question. Have we got enough PPE personal protective equipment? I'm sure they asked the question. How long will this battle last? And I'm sure also that they had this question. Why is Joshua made the worship team the focus that you know the soldiers were just there rarely to God, the worship team that put the trumpet players imagine being a soldier and it's battle day. And your job today is not to execute some grand military strategy to overcome the impossible odds. But your job today is to make sure the worship goes well. I'm sure like us in this season, they had so many questions. But the truth is, in our journey in our story, these walls are about to fall, after seven days of marching around the city, seven hours of trumpets blowing, and then a shout victory. These walls are going to fall. And it's their worship, that is going to tear down the walls. I want to share today the nature of their worship in this moment. Because it's the kind of worship that brings brings you through in victory is the kind of worship that goes beyond the feeling. It's the kind of worship that defeats the enemy. And I believe this matters so much because God is concerned with our health in this moment. It matters

because he's going to bring this through. And it matters because he's going to position as to help others. And those three things are health, God bringing us through and God positioning us to help others is something I feel we are one. So I want to consider very briefly today the kind of worship that tore down the walls of Jericho. I want to consider today how walls come down. So are you ready? I've got three thoughts that I want to share with you today.

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Paul Benger 09:15

Here's the first walls fall when we listen to the right voices. I spoke last week about the need to quieten the chatterbox to quieten the wrong voices in our lives. I spoke about the need to be still the need to find calm. And it's so important because worship isn't just the songs we sing. It's the voices we listen to. Let me say that again. Worship isn't just the songs we sing. It's the voices that were listened to. You see, the voice you believe will determine the future. You experience. Now you're going to hear some things. It's unavoidable. You're going to hear some chatter. You're going to hear some gossip, you're going to hear some negativity, you're going to hear it. Sometimes it's just unavoidable. Somebody calls you, somebody mentioned something, there's something on your social media feed, you hear it, you see it, perhaps you don't want to see it, perhaps you don't want to hear it, but you do hear it. But choosing whether you listen is a different thing. You see, you can't always shut out the voices. But you can always choose not to listen. And I believe this is so important. You see, because so often in life, we have a positive vision of what we want to be. Maybe we have a positive vision, I want to be slim, I want to be fit, I want to be positive, I want to be this kind of person, or I want to be that kind of person. And we make a decision. We do that New Year, don't we we make a decision. This is who I'm going to be right now. But you know, there's a view in psychology that tells us that it's more powerful to decide who you were not going to be than who you want to be. In other words, when you and I say yes to something, we have to realise that we'll have to say no to something with even more passion. You're no has to be bigger than your Yes. It's our failure to do this sometimes to say no to shut out the wrong voices or to shut out the wrong actions. It's our failure to do that, that stunts our progress. I've got a personal story, I think that illustrates this for me so well. You see, I knew many years ago, the kind of leader I wanted to be. I wanted to be a faith filled leader. I wanted to be a giver of Hope I wanted to be a positive person. I wanted to be a leader who wasn't debilitated by challenges. A leader who would be able to stand stronger, a leader who would be able to be faithful and a leader who would always keep going. I also knew the kind of church I wanted. The kind of church I wanted IKON to be a place of faith, of hope and love. I wanted IKON to be a life giving community. But when it came to me personally, that wasn't me. I wasn't that kind of person. I wasn't that kind of leader. I would say I was a chronic melancholic. I would say I was fearful. I would say I was negative. I would say I was

defeatist, to name a few things. You know, today when I say this, people don't believe me. And I have to say to them just as Jeannie, she'll confirm it, that's exactly what I was like. And I prayed. And I prayed. And I prayed. But nothing changed. Nothing changed until I said, That's not me.

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Paul Benger 12:39

This negative, fearful, defeatist person. That's not me. It's who I am. You know, I didn't change in that moment. No one ever does. But every time I felt those feelings, I would say to myself, I would speak to myself, that's not me. Every time I had those thoughts, I would say that's not who I am. That's not who God has called me to be. Some days I would wake up afraid just like normal. I would be fearful and defeatist. I would wake up downhearted, and I would speak to myself, that's not me. Every day I would need to say it. That's not me. That's not who I am. And over time, with the help of the Holy Spirit, I changed. And so did IKON Church. I wanted today is there some trait in your life? And you need to say that's not me. That's not who I am. It may have been there for years. But today, you can start to change by saying that's not who I am. Maybe there's some thought that comes to you over and over again, over and over again. And every time you need to tear down that stronghold by saying, That's not me. That's not who I am. You see, I believe what matters most is not who I think I am. Who others say I am. But what the father sees for me and who he says that I am. Our worship is about listening to the right voices. In Mark chapter four and verse 24. Jesus talks about this he says this consider carefully what you here with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. I wonder, have you ever done that? considered carefully what you hear? I think most of the time we just think we hear what we hear. But Jesus says no, we have a choice whether we listen, we can consider carefully what we hear. I want us to create the IKON herd immunity. Wouldn't that be a fantastic thing go herd immunity and IKON Church and immunity against wrong voices and immunity against negativity and immunity against gossip and immunity against division.

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Paul Benger 14:48

You see, we will overhear things, but we can choose not to listen. People say it's rude to say I'm not listening. But I don't know about you, but I'm declaring today. I'm not listening. I might hear some things, but I'm not listening. If it's not a voice, that speaking faith, if it's not a voice full of hope, if it's not a voice that's giving life, I'm not listening, and I'm giving us all permission today, put it in the chat if you want. I'm not listening, not today, devil, I'm not listening. Let's listen Church, to the right voices, let's say no to the wrong voices. Let's create that herd immunity, where the enemy cannot get in amongst us because we've decided, we are not listening. The walls fall when we listen to the right voices.

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Paul Benger 15:36

The second thing I want to share today is the walls fall when we obey. You see, worship is more than the atmosphere of God's presence. I love God's presence. I can't wait to be back in this room, when it's full, with all our voices, and our hands are raised. And I know it now I can just feel it even now. The tears will flow. The presence of God will be so powerful. I just know it's going to be incredible. But worship is not just that the sense of God's presence. Worship also includes our acts of obedience, you know the Israelites with is going to discover this in the next battle. At Jericho, this battle that we're talking about, they're doing well. They're following instructions. They're being quiet. They've walked around the walls as they've been instructed. They've blown the trumpets every day, and they find themselves defeat in a large city and they experience a miracle. And I'm convinced today, let me pause for a sec, because I'm convinced that there are miracles today, for us to experience you're watching this and it's not by accident. There's miracles in your future today. But then next up for them after Jericho is a small city called Ai or Ai, some pronounce it and they got defeated. It was a smaller city it seemed an easy step after Jericho. But they were defeated simply because they didn't obey. You know, great moves of God usually start with small steps of obedience. I don't know if they got blasé, I don't know if they got How arrogant and proud. I don't know if their desires were too strong that they gave in to temptation. But what I'm certain is that they forgot the power of process, the power of obedience. You see, the enemy is that to distract us from God's word and God's wisdom. He's out to intimidate us to make us feel guilty to make us feel not good enough. He wants to convince us that there's an alternative reality that we should be living. And he does that so that we will question God's leading that we will question God's wisdom, we become so tempted to focus on what we don't have, we become tempted to focus on what what others have or what we wished we had. And this happens to distract us to stop us looking around and saying, God is here. God is in this place. He is with us. He hasn't left us. He'll never abandon us. He is with us. And he knows what's best for us. I believe God wants to remind you today and he wants to remind me that he is with us. I want I want to just open the promise that he gave Joshua in chapter one, it's in chapter one. And verse five, and it says this, God is speaking to Joshua is just become the new leader. And he says, No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you.

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Paul Benger 18:43

You see, the miracle isn't our part. The miracle is God's part. And I'm convinced today as I've been preparing this message now, I've already said it, that there are some miracles even in this room. There are some miracles even in this moment. miracles in job situations in health situations, miracles, of provision, I'm convinced about that. Even as we go through this series, God is going to do miracles. There was a story just this week of

someone in our church, and they were asking God for help. And they were praying and they were praying. And this particular morning, they're praying again, and they stopped praying. And as soon as they stopped praying, the phone rings, and it's the help hits the unexpected help that they asked for. Before you ask God says I will answer. Don't you just love it that God knows what we're going through? Don't you just love it that we can trust God with the future? You see, the miracle is God's part. Obedience is our part. They had all those questions that we listed before, but no answer. Six days of nothing. Six days of no answer, just six days of process, but the key was obedience. There's no doubt that God worked differently in all of our lives, that the way God moves will be different for each of us. The bad path God chooses for us will be unique. But what will be the same, what will never change is our worship and our acts of faithfulness, our steps of obedience, they become our break through worship. And that never changes. Obedience is the kind of worship that will tear down the walls. We are so used to our wisdom sometimes that God's wisdom and God's guidance can seem strange. I don't know about you, but my wisdom never tore down a wall. My my wisdom never created a miracle. And so I'm ready. Come on somebody. I'm ready. I'm ready right now in this season to follow God's wisdom. I'm not getting talked out of my miracle any longer. I won't let the enemy distract me. I'm not putting it off. I'm ready. Are you ready? Come on. If you're ready, tell yourself today. I'm ready. Tell somebody with you. I'm ready. I'm ready to follow God's wisdom because walls fall when we obey.

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Paul Benger 21:11

And then finally, walls fall. When our shout begins. Let me just read two verses from chapter six. We already read them. But I want to pick on two verses right now. Just to help us Joshua, chapter six and verse 16, says this the seventh time around. When the priest sounded the trumpet blast Joshua commanded the army shout, for the Lord has given you the city. And then down to verse 20. And it says when the trumpet sounded, the army shouted. And at the sound of the trumpet when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed. I wonder, what's your shout right now? I wonder what our shout is in this season. You know, we need to listen to the right voices. We need to live in faithful obedience. But I believe we need to have the right shout. Because the walls for when the shout begins.

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Paul Benger 22:13

Shout

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Paul Benger 22:14

Joshua says, For the Lord has given to you the city. The shout begins before the walls

come down. We know what they shouted that they would shout praise and worship to God, they would shout God has given us the city. And you know, it would be so easy to shout when the wars have already fought fallen. It will be so easy to sing when the battle is won. It's so easy to rejoice when we've everything we need everything we want it. But I want us to shout today. I want us to declare today I want us to confess today. Because if we have the audacity to believe God has the ability to perform, let me say that again. If you have the audacity to believe God has the ability to perform, I want you to notice what Joshua says to them. When he commands them to shout. He says this, the Lord has given you the city. Their shout wasn't were amazing. We're here we're going to take over we're going to take the land or whatever. Now the shout was the Lord has given you the city because the miracle belongs to God. Obedience is our power. You see, this was their declaration shout, that's what I shout is a declaration. It's a declaration of what God is about to do. It's, it's a confession of our faith a statement of what we believe. I don't know about you. But I'm used to asking, Lord, please, I'm used to pray and Lord, please, would you do this? I'm used also to hoping to wishing, I hope this will happen that I really want this to happen. But I think God today wants us to get used not only to praying, not only to asking or hoping. He wants us to get used to declaring to confessing the Lord. Joshua says, we'll give you this city. I wonder what what do you need to say? Maybe some of us today we need to declare the LORD Will Provide. Maybe Maybe we need to declare today that God will help us find a way. Maybe we need to say again today that God will take what the enemy meant for evil, and turn it for good. Maybe some of us need to say I know there's a miracle right here in this room right here in this moment. Because I believe God is about to do something beyond our ability, beyond our reasoning beyond what's normal. Because in situations like this, he always does. When does the light shine the brightest. The light shines the brightest in the darkness, whatever you're facing. I'm here to tell you this today. You are not forgotten. God is with you. He will never leave you. He will not forsake you. You will not be abandoned I'm also here to tell you that God will fight for you that there are more things possible than we ever thought possible. Nothing, no thing is impossible for God. I want you to know that God is not limited by our limitations, you're not shocking God because you feel limited or you feel afraid, or you feel, or you feel overwhelmed. God isn't limited by our mistakes. Sometimes we think, Oh, you know what, I was going so well, but I blew it. I want you to know this, that God isn't limited by our mistakes. God isn't discouraged by our fears. God knew all about us all about our fears, all about our failures, all about our mistakes, even before we were born, and yet he knew all of that. And yet he chose us. He called us, he included us. And he says to this, in this moment, I'm going to work in you. And I'm going to work through you. Let your shout right now be about who God is. Let it be about what he is able to perform. Let your shout be about what he is going to do. You see walls fall when we listen to the right voices. And there's a choice today. There's a choice today because we can choose whether to listen, we will hear things but we can choose whether we listen. Walls fall when we obey. And we

can choose to act today. We can choose to say you know God's wisdom, I'm choosing God's wisdom. My wisdom, never brought down some walls. My my wisdom never created a great victory. I'm choosing God's wisdom, but walls fall when our shout begins. And so we've got a choice today we've got a choice to declare to make our boast in him. And so as we close today, I wonder, would you join me in a shout right now, in a declaration. You don't have to raise your voice. But you may want to say it out loud. If you don't want to do that, would you declare it in your heart? It'll be on your screen. It might also be in the comments in the chat sections of however you're watching is based a little on Ephesians 3:20. But would you join me would you join me in this declaration?



Paul Benger 27:14

It's right there on your screen. Here it is. Let's go. Today I declare my God is able. My God is able to do way more than I can ask or imagine. He is able to save. He is able to heal. He is able to provide. I'm not listening to doubt fear or insecurity. That's not who I am. I am who God says that I am. I'm a worshipper. I'm the kind of worshipper that sees the walls come down. So I declare in Jesus name