

Joshua 6:1-27

Everyone of us at times face situations that need to change. Everyone of us have seasons in our worlds we wish would finish. Everyone of us have Jericho's in our world.

These Jericho's can be a variety of things.

Mindsets – Is a way or pattern of thinking that we naturally do when under pressure.

Some mindsets limit or restrict our ability to overcome something. A way of thinking which stops us from achieving a promise from God.

- A poverty mindset – small thinking. I cant buy a house – it will never happen!
- Negative mindset -I cant stop smoking, I cant loose weight, I cant get a girlfriend/boyfriend, I cant be good at anything.

Have you ever heard the term 'small-minded' – that's a mindset

Often these things start out as a series of thoughts or comments made by ourselves or someone else that we accept as truth. But the truth is the opposite. We can change. God wants us to overcome our Jericho's.

Physical problems – Any problem related to our physical being.

E.g. weight, smoking, over drinking, over spending, laziness, prone to anger, back problems – anything were we say 'oh it runs in the family'.

For many in today's world, these loom larger than life. They shout at people. Condescending words saying 'YOU WILL NEVER CHANGE.' You cant over come this You will be like this all your life.

This does not have to be so.

Financial problem – Any issue that results from or is connected to finance.

E.g. an inability to hold down a job, an inability to buy a house, an ability to spend too much.

Relational problems – Any issue that relates to my family

Comments like my family will never change. They don't love me. My father won't accept me, my mother thinks I am a drop kick. My wife does not respect me, my husband does not love me.

Health related issues

Personal issues – anger problems, insecurity, acceptance, rejection, loss of hope, fantasy issues, sexual issues, abuse,

We all have things that we consider too big to overcome. We all have challenges that seem beyond our ability to breakthrough. We all face moments, events, relationships that seem to demand of us something that we don't have. These things are Jericho's. They are your Jericho's.

What is your Jericho?

What are you facing that is beyond your comprehension, beyond your level of understanding? What is in your world right now that seems insurmountable?

What is your Jericho?

It looks big. It looks impossible. **The walls surrounding that issue seem enormous.** But I want to say today, Jericho's do crumble. Jericho's do get destroyed. Jericho's are overcome. Jericho's are not impossible. Jericho's are not beyond the ability of God. **Your Jericho, no matter how big in your eye is not unconquerable.**

Closer Look

Let's have a closer look at the passage today and **see if we can glean some insight** or revelation. God speaks through revelation. He uses revelations to crush the walls of the Jericho's in your life.

1. Verse 2 - 5 Joshua got the promise - Jericho was his.

Your Jericho is Yours

God has decreed that you are destined for breakthrough. You are destined to overcome, breakthrough, and to go past that which stands in your way.

One of the first big keys to breaking through is to own that which is yours!

2. Verse 7 - 'Proceed and march around the city and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the Lord'.

Let Him who is armed – in other words not everyone who should have been armed was armed.

40 years of wondering around the desert had caused some people to be disarmed.

Often when we have been seeing a problem for so long and just been wondering around as if it will never change we lose some of the very weapons we need.

Are you disarmed in your life?

What weapons do you have?

- The sword of the spirit
- The presence of God

We need to keep ourselves armed because we just never know when we will come out of the wilderness and face the Jericho. We just never know when we will be facing something in our world.

How to stay armed?

Get out those words over your life. Get out that bible. Get on your knees and look to God. Get armed cause your Jericho is coming down! Your Jericho is moving out of your way. This day I declare that the Jericho over your life is gone. God says 'whatever stands in your way, today I have removed it.'

3. Verses 2 - 3

'You will march.'

What had Israel been doing for the last 40 years? They had been wondering around an area no bigger than Adelaide. They had been walking from place to place. They were marching around piece of land, again, again and again. They were walking everywhere.

What they had been doing for the last 40 years was the very thing they would do to build their faith. It was the very thing they would do before they went to war.

Going in cycles!

40 years of wondering, having a promise, having a vision to the promised land and not getting anywhere. I am sure they would have at some stage or another passed by places they had passed before. Thoughts would have come into their minds. We are here again. Man doesn't this ever change. I seem to keep coming to the same place. **I seem to keep doing the same things.** I seem to keep finding myself in the same situation.

But **God had to build their faith.** He knew that 40 years does some damage. He knew their minds needed a boost of the possibility. He knew that they needed something that was doable so that the impossible could become possible.

So He asked them to march or walk around the city. Now they were severely restricted. They had only a smaller walk to do. Yet the victory was coming. So **God asked them to just keep doing what they were already doing.**

That's too difficult.

Some many people think God will ask them to do something so way out that they will not be able to achieve it. That isn't God.

God knows what you can and cant handle. He knows what you can do. **He knows what is restricting your world. He knows what is limiting your world.**

The very thing they were restricted to doing for the last 40 years was the very thing that brought the victory to them.

Do not despise the day of small beginnings. Zechariah 4:6-10 Do no despise were you are now, because its what God will use to crush your Jericho.

In 1919, Coca-Cola went public at around \$40 per share. Due to some problems in the business and other factors, the stock price fell to \$19 per share by the end of 1920. Investors that had subscribed to the initial public offering were now sitting on a more than fifty percent (50%) paper loss.

They could have gotten spooked and sold out of their position. Those who had faith in the business, however, have been extraordinarily well served. Despite

wars, recessions, depressions, a Presidential assassination, price controls, and other huge geopolitical and macroeconomic events, that single share, with dividends reinvested (that is crucial!) has now grown into more than \$5,000,000!

In fact, a \$10,000 in any number of companies – Berkshire Hathaway, Wal-Mart, Home Depot, McDonalds, Capital Cities, Wells Fargo, American Express, The Washington Post, Chico's, and Microsoft, just to name a few – was enough to make you rich enough to never work again. Hang in there, focus on building a complete portfolio, and time will take care of the rest if you are diligent about protecting your capital and limiting risk.

Do not despise what you are doing now!

It may be small, seem insignificant but the very thing they knew how to do, was the very thing that brought the victory.

The very thing that they did out of mundane routine was the thing God used to bring the victory.

God has you at the tipping point of your breakthrough.

That's not what God is saying. Some people try to run ahead of God. They think if they go blazing in, make a stand that things will change. They think if just this happens of that happens things will be different.

Here is the paradox in God ... God uses what you got to get you where you can't go.

4. Verse 17 - Rahab was the enemy of the people of Israel.

People will stand against you. People will try and tell you that you will never be able to break free from your Jericho. But God has a different opinion. He will bring about just a change that even your enemies will become part of the victory.

God turns things around. He makes the path straight, He makes the way straight. He fixes things so that you have your breakthrough.

5. Verse 18 - the first always belongs to God.

This was the first city that Israel would conquer. It belonged to God. This is the example of the tithe. The first part belongs to God.

Honor the lord with your first fruits that there may be food in your barns ... Proverbs 3:9-10

Some people wonder why they have a breakthrough and then fall back into the cycle of failure again?

Your Jericho is coming down.

Your Jericho is about to fall. God is for you. What are you facing that seems beyond you? What is in your world that seems impossible? God is for you. Your Jericho is coming down.

Keep walking ... Keep walking.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. You get to choose how you are going to live it.
You get to choose how you are going to move forward from this point.

Let's be inspired by God's word and believe. God is for us. God is for me. God is for C3
Church Marion.