

Jericho - A March of Faith

Joshua 6

Int.

1. Aim: To show that it took great faith to march around the city, and show that it also takes great faith to walk the Christian life.
2. A long journey to Jericho
 - a. Left Egyptian bondage many years ago
 - b. Marched on hot desert sands for 40 years
 - c. They had been promised a land flowing with milk and honey
 - d. Joshua led them across the Jordan river. They need only to take the land God had promised, to them.
3. How can they do it?
 - a. They were former slaves - they were divided into many small kingdoms
 - b. In order to take the land they needed:
 - i. God to deliver them
 - ii. To follow his instructions
 - c. God had proved himself capable of doing everything he had promised
 - d. But Israel had not been faithful in following the instructions of God
4. Jericho was a test case
 - a. If they can take this city, which is the strongest, then they can take the land with no trouble.
 - b. They must win or be destroyed, for they had no homes or forts to which they could retreat!

Discussion

I. JERICHO IS THE FIRST BATTLE

- A. The enemy is afraid - Jos. 6:1
 - 1. God promised to send His fear before them. Ex. 23«27-28
 - 2. No Christian should ever really fear the enemy of the Lord
 - a. The enemies have fear in their heart for Christianity
 - b. Smallest Christian should never be afraid of the largest sinner.
 - c. David was properly equipped with faith when he went against the giant
 - d. 1 John 5:4

- B. Jericho was the first city to be taken
 - 1. To conquer this city would lead to the conquering of other cities.
 - 2. To fail here was to fail elsewhere
 - 3. They get stronger with the proving of their faith.

- C. Every Christian has his first real battle
 - 1. We will have temptations as a Christian. Jas.1:2
 - 2. The temptations may come in the size of the city of Jericho. The church at Jerusalem had been in existence only a short time until it was beseiged with a great persecution.
 - 3. Luke 17:1 (asv) "...it is impossible but that occassions of stumbling should come."
 - a. If you have not had temptations, be sure they will come,
 - b. Be victorius - do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with Good!
 - c. Jas. 3:1 "...the trying of your faith worketh patience."
 - d. Patience- means strength & fortitude.

II. GOD GAVE JERICO BEFORE IT WAS TAKEN

- A. "Possess the land"
1. Joshua 1:11
 2. Joshua 6:2
 3. It was given to them - it was now up to them to go and possess
 4. Many blessings have been given to Christians. It is up to us to possess them.
 - a. Prayer has been given to us. We must possess it's blessings
 - b. Peace has been given us. We must possess it.
 - c. The gift of eternal life is given to us. We must possess it.
- B. God had given them the promised land. He had given it to them through promise.
1. God has given us heaven. It is given to us through promise.
 2. God promised Abraham that he would multiply his seed. He patiently endured until he received that promise. Heb.6:13-15
 3. John said "and this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." If we are patient and faithful we will inherit this promise. 1 John 2:25
 4. Jesus said he has gone to prepare a place for us. He promised He would come again to receive us unto himself that where He was, there we might be also. Jn. 14:1-3
 5. We must be diligent in possessing this promise.

III. JERICO - BECAME A WALK OF FAITH

- A. There were commands to be obeyed & promises to be enjoyed
1. Joshua 6:3-11
 2. Order of procession — armed man, 7 white robed priests carryin, seven rams horns.
 3. God commanded them to march 1 time for 6 days - 7 on 7th day
 4. After last time around they shouted and blew their trumpets and the walls came tumbling down.
 5. They obeyed every command exactly and promptly as God had given order.
 6. Pictures of the marching around the city of Jericho and it's fall.
- B. God has always put great stress on strict obedience
1. Naaman was not healed until he dipped 7 times in the Jordan river. II kings 5
 2. King Saul failed to obey for he did not utterly destroy the Amalekites
 - a. He saved King Agag & some of the sheep oxen,
 - b. Partial obedience is never enough. It is really disobedience.
 - c. I Sam. 15:22-23
 3. Nadab & Abihu offered strange fire unto God. Lev. 10:1-2
 - a. It was fire but strange fire
 - b. There are some who offer music unto God in worship, but it is a strange music.
 - c. Some are baptized today but it is a strange baptism. It is not the one commanded of God. God demands obedience in all we do.

CONCLUSION

1. Jericho - was conquered by Faith - "By Faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about 7 days." Heb. 11:30
2. The blast of the trumpet at which the walls of Jericho fell, can be compared to the sound of the last trumpet which shall finally destroy the kingdom of sin.
3. Let us not be weary in Well- Doing. After six days and six times on the sixth day they could see no progress. Keep on keeping on.
4. Gal. 6:9

Sources:

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Pulpit Commentary

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