

Joshua Part 6 - "Success" (6-25-23)
A well worn path to a brand new place

Series Overview & Goals

- Learn from Joshua's life - how to move forward and take new territory
- A journey of identity, freedom, leadership, victory, finding a home, and becoming a people

Today: "Success" - The Fall of Jericho (Joshua chapters 2, 5-6)

1) Foundation of Faith

Joshua 5:13-15 (ESV)

(13) When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" (14) And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" (15) And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Note: Faith - Courage & Humility - Whose side are you on?

- So much of what we call faith is really just trying to get God to co-sign our own hopes and ideas
- True Faith is about getting yourself on God's side - submitting to His leadership and will
- Jesus didn't come to take sides, He came to take over - it's His Kingdom not ours!

Jesus is the victor - faith coupled with obedience allows us to participate and see His mighty hand

2) Foolishness of Faith

Joshua 6:1-3a (ESV)

(1) Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. (2) And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. (3) You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. . .

Joshua 6:3b-5 (ESV)

. . . Thus shall you do for six days. (4) Seven 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. (5) And 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."

Note: I wonder how often we are all for God's objective, but don't approve of His plan to get there.

- Not only does Joshua have to trust God's plan - he has to tell everyone else, this is what God is saying!

Day 1 . . .

Joshua 6:8-11 (ESV)

(8) And 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. (9) The 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. (10) But 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." (11) So 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.

Day 2-6 . . .

Joshua 6:14 (ESV)

And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.

Note: I wonder what everyone was thinking as these days kept stacking up?

Faith often seems foolish, especially when you keep faithfully following without seeing obvious results

Day 7 . . .

Joshua 6:15-16 (ESV)

(15) On 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. (16) And 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.

But wait, there's more . . .

Joshua 6:17-19 (ESV)

(17) And 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. (18) But 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. (19) But 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."

Joshua 6:20 (ESV)

So 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.

Note: Success is not measured by completing our strategic plans, but by surrender & obedience to God

3) Fortune of Faith

The Faith of Rahab . . .

Joshua 2:1-4a (ESV)

(1) And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. (2) And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." (3) Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." (4) But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them.

Note: Joshua's one strategy only worked out because of the Grace of God and the kindness of a stranger

- I wonder how often we want to take credit for something that God actually accomplished in spite of us?

Once Rahab has distracted the soldiers and made a plan for escape for the spies, she comes to talk with them . . .

Joshua 2:9b-13 (ESV)

(9) . . . “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. (10) For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. (11) And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. (12) Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign (13) that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”

The spies agree and Rahab helps them escape . . .

Joshua 2:15 (ESV)

Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.

The spies promise to help her and they give her the plan . . .

Joshua 2:18 (ESV)

Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.

Joshua 2:21 (ESV)

And she said, “According to your words, so be it.” Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

Note: scarlet cord Hebrew meaning: cord (literal), hope (figuratively) - ground of hope, expectation

Psalms 71:1, 3, 5 (ESV)

(1) In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame! . . . (3) Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. . . (5) For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

• Back to Jericho - now the Shout has gone up, and the wall has fallen flat, and the spies keep their promise!

Joshua 6:23-25 (ESV)

(23) So 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. (24) And 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. (25) But 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.

Note: Rahab (with a house in the wall) is safe even through the collapse! Now she is in God's forever story!

• Matthew 1:5 - Rahab listed in the line of Christ!

Conclusion: True measure of **Success** is built upon the **foundation** of **faith**, no matter how **foolish** it seems, when our trust is in the Lord our **fortune** is sure!

Hebrews 11:30-31 (ESV)

(30) By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. (31) By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.