

Overcoming Obstacles

July 19+20 2008

It's harvest time and Christ's 7 best fruits are ripe for the picking right now. What are these 7 best fruits?

- 1) Eternal life through the complete forgiveness of your sins
- 2) Ever deepening, life giving relationship with Christ
- 3) Christ like character and wholeness
- 4) Mutually satisfying, Christ honoring relationships
- 5) Meaningful life purpose and ministry
- 6) Abundant grace and power for all of life's challenges
- 7) Overflowing financial provision

To get Christ's best we often must overcome major obstacles that can seem impossible to overcome. Joshua's overcoming of the city Jericho encourages us that God is with us as we face these challenging obstacles with faith and He will give us a strategy for overcoming them.

Joshua 6: 1-21

1) All of us will have "Jericho size" obstacles in our pursuit of God's best. In fact, if you don't have any huge obstacles in your life you probably aren't pursuing God's best in some area of your life. That's why it is so important to study this victory and gain faith from it for our own Jerichos.

Romans 10:17- *So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

2) Victory was already secured it just had to be possessed. All Joshua had to do was claim the promise and obey.

Joshua 6:2 - *But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.*

God wants us to do the same today.

2 Corinthians 1:20, 1John 5: 3-5

3) God has an effective, victorious strategy for every obstacle we face that keeps us from getting His promised best. It may not make sense to us but He knows best how to overcome every obstacle we face.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - *"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

The significance of 7: 7 days, 7 Priests, 7 ram's horns, 7 times around on 7th day. In biblical numerology the number 7 represents completeness and perfection. It spoke of God's ability to complete or finish whatever He started.

Philippians 1:6 - *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

God completes what He starts. He knows what obstacles stand in our way and will give us His strategy for completion.

James 1:5 - *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.*

4) Even Jericho sized obstacles "fall down flat" when we face them with faith and obedience.

Joshua 6:20 - *When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it.*

Don't surrender to the size and strength of the obstacle, surrender to God and trust Him to do all He has promised to do. He will do His part as you do yours!

5) After your victory is secured, and it will be, continue to obey God carefully, fully giving Him the glory for overcoming the Jericho-like obstacles in your life. Joshua 6:21; 23-24

Don't let the Jericho-like obstacles keep you from Christ's best. Face them in faith and receive God's strategy for possessing what He wants you to have.

Luke 12:32b - *For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.*

Discussion Questions:

1. What Jericho sized obstacles have you had to face in your life? How did God help you overcome them?
2. Is there an obstacle you are currently trying to overcome to pick one of the 7 fruits? Do you believe God has already given it but you need to possess it like Joshua did Jericho?
3. Do you have God's strategy for overcoming this obstacle? Let's pray together for the wisdom He promises to give.