

## **Lessons From Jericho**

### **Hebrews 11:29-30**

#### **Introduction**

- A. This text comes from the Bible's great chapter on faith - **Hebrews 11**
  - 1. It begins with the definition of faith - **Hebrews 11:1**
  - 2. It continues with teaching about the essentiality of faith - **Hebrews 11:6**
  - 3. It offers several examples of great faith - Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses.
  - 4. The faith of the Israelites in their assault on Jericho is mentioned among these great deeds of faith.
  
- B. Let us look back to the story of the conquest of Jericho from the book of Joshua.
  - 1. For 40 years, Israel had been wandering in the wilderness, heading toward the Promised Land of Canaan.
  - 2. They had taken the territory east of the Jordan River and divided it among the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.
  - 3. Moses had died and Joshua had become the leader of the Israelites.
  - 4. The captain of the Lord's host revealed God's plan to Joshua for capturing Jericho – **Joshua 5:13-15**
  - 5. The Lord gave specific instructions for capturing the walled city of Jericho.
  - 6. Joshua and the Israelites carried out these instructions and the city fell before them.
  
- C. Israel learned several great lessons from the events surrounding the battle of Jericho
- D. Some of those same lessons need to be appreciated by the church today.

#### **I. Israel Learned That Doing God's Will Is Not Easy**

- A. Consider the experiences the Israelites had already gone through.
  - 1. The Book of Exodus begins with them as slaves in Egypt.
  - 2. When Pharaoh chased them, they were caught between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea.
  - 3. They had been in the desert for 40 years.
  
- B. The great task of conquering the Promised Land was ahead of them.
- C. God has never called His people to a life of ease.
  - 1. **Amos 6:1**
  - 2. Accomplishing the Lord's will today is not easy.

#### **II. Israel Learned About The Great Power Of God**

- A. God arranged for Jericho's fall in such a way that there could be no doubt about whose power was responsible for it.
- B. Israel had had many demonstrations of the might of God. The people had to do their part, but the battles were won by God.
- C. Christians should appreciate the power of God.
  - 1. We cannot be eyewitnesses to His power as the Israelites were.
  - 2. We can read in the Bible of His might:
    - a. **Ephesians 1:19-20**
    - b. **Ephesians 3:20-21**
    - c. **Philippians 4:13**

### III. Israel Learned They Would Have To Fight For The Promised Land

- A. They had the obligation to conquer the land.
  - 1. Some were unwilling to fight. They wished they had stayed on the other side of the Jordan.
  - 2. Israel's failure to completely conquer the land caused them many problems later in their history.
- B. Christians today must continually fight to possess the field of truth and righteousness.
  - 1. We must fight against Satan as he tries to tempt us into sin.
  - 2. We must fight error and evil as we contend for the faith - **Jude 1:3**

### IV. Israel Learned The Importance Of Great Faith

- A. The Israelites were commissioned to capture a great walled city.
- B. Consider what they did not have:
  - 1. Israel did not have sophisticated weapons or even battering rams to break down the walls.
  - 2. They did not intend to starve the people out of the besieged city.
  - 3. They did not have any other finely devised military plan to capture the city.
- C. All they had was faith in God's promise!
  - 1. Human reasoning would never conceive of such a plan -- marching around the city 13 times, giving out a great shout, and waiting for the walls to fall down.
  - 2. Yet, their faith was enough

### V. Israel Learned The Importance Of Obedience

- A. Notice the specific requirements God made of the Israelites - **Joshua 6:3-5**
  - 1. All the men of war shall go around the city daily for six days.
  - 2. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns.
  - 3. They shall bear the trumpets before the Ark of the Covenant.
  - 4. They shall march around the city seven times on the seventh day.
  - 5. Priests will blow a long blast with the rams' horns.
  - 6. All the people will give a great shout.
  - 7. Then the wall of the city will fall down flat allowing the people to go up over the walls.
- B. Joshua and the Israelites obeyed the instructions explicitly. The walls of Jericho fell just as God has said that they would - **Joshua 6:6-20**
- C. Know this basic Bible principle: Any time God has promised blessings, based on specified conditions, those blessings have NEVER been bestowed until the conditions have been met.
- D. Obedience means:
  - 1. Doing exactly what God has said!
  - 2. Doing it in the way God has said do it! (if God specifies a way)
  - 3. Doing it for the purpose God said do it!
  - 4. Taking God at His Word!

### Conclusion

- A. As the Israelites were beginning to meet the challenge of conquering Canaan, they needed to learn several important lessons - They learned those lessons at Jericho.
- B. In a sense, God's people are still fighting the battle of Jericho. We still need to learn these same Lessons - We will never be valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ until we learn these truths.
- C. Let us have the faith the Israelites had at Jericho and win our victories for Christ today as they won the battle of Jericho!
- D. Invitation