

Joshua 6:1-5

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. 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." *ESV*

God's commands are His promises. Not only is God's infinite power wrapped together with His commands in His promises, but also His commands manifest themselves into the fulfilling of His promises.

One cannot separate God's commands from His promises. Often, we say that what God commands He enables. We think of His commands and His promises as two separate things. In reality, His commands are life, hope, blessing and promise themselves!

God's commands signal His presence. Again, in this chapter (6) we are alerted to the words "Ark of the Covenant" several times. The Author is reminding us, as he did when the Jordan was crossed, of the centrality of the presence of God. The people were not merely blindly and independently following God's commands. His very presence was manifested to them as they obeyed His Word. This is a key truth in God's revelation. What God commands He also performs.

God's commands are preceded by His presence. The Ark was the first thing into the Jordan. The Angel of the Lord pulled the veil back for Joshua, demonstrating that God had great power ahead of the armies of Israel. Now His presence would be among them as they marched. They would follow the Ark around the city.

As they followed the Ark, they were to remain silent for 6 consecutive days during their daily march around the walls. Sometimes that's what obedience to God is like!

Following God is often not like a loud parade full of jubilant trumpets. Following God sometimes requires silent submission and trust in His Word. There are seasons preceding the work of God, sometimes long seasons, where our silent obedience and trust is what will precede His display of marvelous grace and mercy. Sometimes we are too quick to grab the sword and spear when we should be plowing the field row by row, awaiting God's next move.

With each pass around the city, they remembered their response to the command of God:

"All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses! ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous." Joshua 1.16-18 *ESV*

"One of the hardest commands to obey from God is to be silent."

--F. B. Meyer

The words "walk" and "march" are used 8 times. Sometimes we make the most simple commands of God very complicated by our unbelief and disobedience. Our pride makes it difficult for us to believe and obey God.

Israel was to “march” or “walk” around the city walls of Jericho. That’s it. Then they were to blow the ram’s horn. No cannons. No catapults. No storming the gates. Just “walk.” **God’s wisdom is perfect.** He knows exactly what it takes to accomplish His will for our lives. In our pride we over-complicate things, making a fool of ourselves and a mockery of God’s perfect ways.

On the seventh day, Sabbath, they were to circle the city 7 times and on the 7th trip around, they were to blow the ram’s horn and shout. There are at least 2 types of horns or trumpets used in ancient Israel. The first trumpet, a silver trumpet, was used to herald announcements. The ram’s horn was used to signal a festival or celebration. It marked the beginning of feasts and jubilant gatherings. This is the horn that they were commanded by God to sound! It was as if they were saying, “We already celebrate your defeat, because the covenant-keeping God, Jehovah, has defeated you in our midst!” The true battle that was won was in their hearts. **With each trip around the walls, they were obeying God, submitting to His kind commands. Because of their obedience they could enter into Rest.** God’s work was done. There was completion of His will in His way.

Joshua did not fight the battle of Jericho. God won the battle single-handedly, and with a couple of million feet!

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. **Why does God “command” us to do anything in the first place? Why do we have to be “commanded”?**
2. **Why are God’s commands different than the commands of other authorities in our lives?**
3. **Why is it so important to realize that God’s commands accompany His presence?**
4. **What does it mean that God precedes His commands? How do we find this true in Jesus Christ? (see Hebrews 12:1-2)**
5. **What is at stake to simply obey the commands of God?**
6. **How do we make God’s commands more complicated than they actually are?**
7. **Do you know what it is to find rest for your soul in trusting God’s command to repent and believe upon Jesus Christ alone for eternal salvation, rest?**

If you have any questions or want to discuss anything in these weekly lessons, please be sure to contact me! Brad.Jury@Capitol.Com.org



CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

**Legislators, Staff, Lobbyists &
Capitol Community Welcome!**

Statehouse Room #44

Thursdays, 12:05-12:45 PM