

“When You’re Up Against a Wall”

1:7-11 Joshua 6: 1-5, 12-18

February 3, 2019

Rev. Dr. Henry Hansen

THE BIG IDEA

God commissioned Joshua to enter into the Promised Land and take Jericho by conquest. This specific passage, though difficult in some parts because of its violent nature, can nonetheless teach us some vital aspects of living out our faith and facing “walls.” Joshua is charged by God to remain steeped in the Law of God, to look toward his faithful character, to take courage, and to carefully follow his instructions in taking down Jericho’s walls. Ultimately, the Israelite army’s actions can be interpreted as a shout of praise to God. Their worship of God was a proclamation of God’s faithful character and an acknowledgment that the battle ultimately belongs to him. Acknowledging these truths about God equips us for life’s battles and facing walls ourselves.

GETTING STARTED

1. Have you ever been on an exciting trip and seen a monument or historical site that was of epic proportions (like the Great Wall of China, the Eiffel Tower, West Windsor Castle, etc.)? What was it like? What did you appreciate about it?
2. What is the one trait identified in the message that is imperative for facing walls?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, Read Joshua 1:7-11 and 6: 1-5, 12-18.

3. Look at 1: 7-11. Consider the many, many instructions in those verses. How many ways was Joshua directed by God? Think about the implications of each verse for Joshua. How were they vital for him as he moved ahead? Take time with each verse.
4. Review 6: 1-5, 12-18. Describe the strategy set forth by God for conquering Jericho. What was it? Think through the shout, the Ark of the Covenant, the careful attention the Israelites gave to God’s instructions, and the final outcome. What happened? Whose battle was it?
5. What is Joshua’s life steeped in that allows him to be victorious? (See Joshua 5:13)
6. What spiritual lessons do you glean in these chapters and verses for facing walls of your own? Remember that walls are both external and internal. The wall can be in your heart rather than only a circumstance.

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

7. Sometimes courage is simply putting one foot in front of the other. Another dimension of courage is to do well in honoring the explicit commands of God. Which do you need to do right now?
8. Name one external and one internal wall you might be facing. What's your strategy to cope with either?

THE "EXTRA-MILE"

9. Identify and execute a strategy for confronting an internal wall in your life. Consider what walls outside of yourself (injustices or something in society) God may be inviting you to confront with him.