



## **SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE**

Pastor Charlie Riley

**Faithful Obedience: Surrendering for Divine Victory**

### **OPENING & PRAYER:**

Today, we continued our journey through the story of Joshua and the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land, focusing on the powerful lessons found in Joshua chapters 2 through 6. The heart of the story is about a generation that finally believed and trusted God, picking up where their parents failed. The previous generation missed out on God's promise because they refused to trust Him and neglected the small acts of obedience that matter to God. In contrast, Joshua's generation learned that faithfulness in the little things—like circumcision and celebrating Passover—was essential, even when it didn't seem to make sense or produce immediate results.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. It is easy to slip away from trusting You and Your promises. Please guide us as we grow in this area. We want to trust You with everything in front of us, whether big or small. We are learning how to submit to You and Your will for our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

## SCRIPTURE:

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. **Hebrews 11:30-31**

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'" **Joshua 1:10-11**

So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel. **Joshua 5:1**

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time." So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins. **Joshua 5:2-3**

And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. **Joshua 5:4-5**

Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day. **Joshua 5:10-11**

Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year. **Joshua 5:12**

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" **Joshua 5:13**

So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. **Joshua 5:14-15**

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. **Joshua 6:1-2**

You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. **Joshua 6:3-4**

It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him." **Joshua 6:5**

Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout." So he had the ark of the Lord circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp. **Joshua 6:10-11**

But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city! **Joshua 6:15-16**

And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord." **Joshua 6:18-19**

So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. **Joshua 6:20**

## GO DEEPER:

We saw how God required the Israelites to consecrate themselves before they could conquer Jericho. This act of consecration—surrendering to God and setting themselves apart—was a necessary step before victory. It's a reminder that God wants to conquer us before He conquers our circumstances. Surrender always comes before victory. Whether it's our habits, our relationships, or our struggles, God asks us to lay them down before Him so He can move in power.

Another key lesson is that God's provision changes as we grow. In the wilderness, God did everything for Israel, providing manna daily. But once they entered the Promised Land, the manna stopped, and they had to work the land themselves. God shifted from being their sole provider to being their partner, empowering them to take responsibility and grow. God is not an enabler; He is an empowerer. He wants us to partner with Him, not just wait for Him to do everything.

We also looked at the importance of private time with God. Joshua's encounter with the Commander of the Lord's Army (a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus) shows us that public victories are born out of private visits with God. It's in those quiet moments of worship, prayer, and listening that God gives us the strategies and strength we need for the battles ahead.

Finally, we learned that we must value God's promises above people's opinions. Joshua refused to let the voices of doubt and negativity from others keep him from obeying God. He knew that following God's word was more important than pleasing people or seeking their approval.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS:

**Faithfulness in the Small Things:** The Israelites failed in the wilderness because they stopped doing the small things God asked of them—like circumcision and Passover—when they didn’t see immediate results. True faith is shown in consistent obedience, even when it feels pointless or unnoticed. God honors those who are faithful in the little things, and it’s often the small acts of obedience that prepare us for greater things. **[09:58]**

**Consecration Before Conquering:** Before the Israelites could take Jericho, they had to consecrate themselves—surrendering their will and ways to God. This principle holds true for us: God wants to conquer our hearts before He conquers our circumstances. Surrendering our struggles, habits, and desires to God is the pathway to real victory. **[13:11]**

**God Empowers, Not Enables:** When the manna stopped, the Israelites had to work the land and take responsibility for their provision. God’s goal is not to keep us comfortable, but to grow us into maturity by partnering with us. He delights in our growth and wants us to move from passively receiving to actively participating in His promises. **[19:17]**

**Private Time Fuels Public Victory:** Joshua’s private encounter with the Commander of the Lord’s Army was the turning point for Israel’s victory. Our greatest breakthroughs come from time spent alone with God—listening, worshiping, and receiving His direction. Public victories are always rooted in private devotion. **[24:58]**

**God’s Promise Over People’s Opinions:** Joshua learned to value God’s promise above the opinions of others. The voices of doubt, fear, and negativity can keep us from stepping into God’s best if we let them. We must choose to trust God’s word and direction, even when it goes against popular opinion or conventional wisdom. **[36:22]**

## LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. What two important acts of obedience did Joshua lead the Israelites to do before they attacked Jericho? (Joshua 5:2-12)
2. The sermon says, "God wants to conquer us before He conquers our circumstances." What does it mean for God to "conquer" us, and why is this necessary before we see breakthrough in our lives? **[15:52]**
3. Is there an area of your life—like a habit, relationship, or struggle—that you need to surrender to God before you can see victory? What would it look like to truly lay it down and let God "conquer" your heart in that area? **[15:52]**
4. Joshua refused to let the opinions of others keep him from obeying God. Are there voices of doubt, fear, or negativity in your life that are holding you back from following God's direction? How can you tune out those voices and focus on God's promises instead? **[36:22]**
5. The Israelites built an altar of stones to remember what God had done. Do you have any "reminders" in your life of God's faithfulness? If not, what could you do to help you remember and thank God for what He's brought you through? **[09:58]**

## CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. When we start to doubt, we will remember Your promises for our lives. We will step through the doors You open for us with faith that You are in control. You protect us even when it doesn't make sense to us. You guide us throughout our week and situations, and we will follow it. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."