

COLLAPSE OF JERICHO'S WALLS

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed for wisdom and read the Bible to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes below to meet the needs of your students.

Lesson Aim: Learn basic principles to gain spiritual victory over the enemies of our souls

Suggestion: Give next week's Student Lesson to your class to answer the questions. Let them share their answers in class. The questions below will reveal important truths you may want to emphasize.

Introduction: It is always a special thrill to win a victory over our enemies and so it was for Joshua. The first enemy city that Joshua faced in the land of Canaan was Jericho. Before that happened, he received special instructions from his Commander in Chief (Christ) on how to prepare the people for receiving the Promised Land as their inheritance, on instructions on how to conquer Jericho, and on giving everything to God (keeping nothing for themselves). The victory that Joshua had over this city provides several lessons that will help us win victory over our enemies: the world, the devil, and the flesh (Eph 2:2-3). "Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor 15:57).

Why did the LORD have Israel cross the Jordan River when it was at flood stage? 5:1

This miracle gave glory to the LORD and caused the Canaanites to lose heart. Who could fight against Israel and win when their God could do such a powerful feat for them? When you face a big obstacle in your life, take heart. God is using it to do a powerful work that will glorify Him.

Why did all the Israelite men need to be circumcised before they possessed Canaan? 5:2-7

The LORD promised Abraham before he had any children that he and his people would receive the land of Canaan as their inheritance. Abraham believed Him and an unconditional covenant was made by a sacrifice (Gen 15). Later the LORD told Abraham all males belonging to him must be circumcised as a sign of His covenant with him. Uncircumcised men or boys would show that they did not belong to Abraham (Gen 17). Even circumcised Jews could deny their faith in the LORD and be excluded from inheriting the land of Canaan (Rom 2:28-29). Circumcision was a heart issue. Is your heart circumcised from the sinful desires of the flesh so that God can use and bless you?

Why did the Captain meet with Joshua before Jericho was destroyed? 5:13-15

He wanted Joshua to know that He was the Captain of the LORD's army and Joshua was to receive orders from Him. This was Christ before He became a man. When Joshua realized Who He was, he fell down and worshipped Him. Joshua was given a unique strategy for destroying Jericho and he obeyed the LORD in every detail. The victory brought glory to the LORD and respect to Joshua. God said His ways are not our ways (Isa 55:8), so obey Him, even if you do not figure out His way.

Why was the Ark of the LORD in the Israelite's march around Jericho? 6:6-9, 13

The Ark of the LORD symbolized God's presence and it showed the Israelites that He was bringing judgment on Jericho for their sinful behavior. He is the Judge of all the earth and people of all nations must conform to His standards or face His wrath. Belshazzar learned this too late from Daniel (Dan 5). Jericho also was about to face God's wrath. When we tell sinners about salvation by believing Christ, we also must tell them of God's wrath for not believing His Son (Jn 3:36).

What is known in the Bible about Rahab's faith? 6:22-23; Mt 1:5; Heb 11:31; Jam 2:25

Rahab's faith in God allowed her bear Boaz and thus be an ancestor of Christ. It allowed her to save her own life and the lives of her family from destruction in Jericho. Her faith was proved when she kept two Israelite spies from being caught in Jericho. What is known about your faith in God?

What lessons should you learn about spiritual warfare from this lesson?

We must trust God to overcome big barriers. We must cleanse our hearts so God can use us. We must worship Christ before we fight the enemy. We must follow God's plan to defeat the enemy.