Heroes
Knocking Walls Down and Gaining new Territories

Review
Hebrews 11:1-2
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

“Faith is acting like God is telling the truth.”
“Faith is acting like it is so even when it is not so, in order that it might be so simply because God said so.”
- Tony Evans

Matthew 17:20
Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.

Hebrews 11:30
By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

Joshua 6:1-16:20

1 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. 2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” 7 And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.” 8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD’s covenant followed them. 9 The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. 10 But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” 11 So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.
Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Prophesy / Edify

1. You have not come out of your Egypt to wonder around in the desert forever.
2. God brought you out of Egypt so that you could possess your inheritance.
3. God has laid aside for you so much more than you can imagine.
4. There was a generation that died in the desert. That generation represented disobedience and lack of faith.
5. The desert dwellers never got to see the Promise Land because of their lack of faith.
6. They did not believe God when he told them what to do.
7. They chose to live for temporary short term reward of sin rather than trusting God with a long range faith.
8. The generation in Joshua is a generation of faith.
9. They believed in God and they believe God and they believed that his promises are true.

Hebrews 11:6
And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

10. So there you have it. Don’t complicate things. Don’t over think it.
11. Don’t let the fear of the unknown stop you from moving forward.
12. Stick to what you already know.

I. God has new territory for me to conquer.
I will conquer all that God has set aside for me.
I will not fear.
God gives me eyes to see his plans for my life.
My eyes will be opened.

Transition from the desert into the Promise Land.  

Joshua 5:10-15

10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. 11 The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. 12 The manna stopped the day after[6] they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan. 13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” 14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” 15 The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

A. Transition.
1. From desert into the land of Canaan or their inheritance.
2. No longer eating mana but eating from the fruit of the land.
3. God was moving them from daily provision to being able to eat off of the land.
4. In the desert they didn’t have much choice. They relied on daily manna to be provided for them.
5. God says I am going to move you into a new level of trust.
6. In the past you only had to trust me over night and you saw that manna was there in the morning.
7. Now I am going to teach you to trust me over long periods of time.
8. I am going to teach you the law of seedtime and harvest.
9. You will plant seeds in the ground and then there will be a delay in the reward.
10. You will have to trust me in the process --- Longer time frame.
11. I will teach you how to go into new territories and set up entire cities.
12. You will conquer and build and expand and I want to teach you how to rely on me in the process.
13. I am leading you to the land flowing with milk and honey but...
14. I am going to stretch you....
15. I’m transitioning you from one level to the next.

B. Priorities.
1. Leader of the Lord’s Army – Lord of Hosts
2. Priority is not physical or military strength but on spiritual strength.
3. I am neither for or against.
4. What message do you have for us?
5. Take off your sandals because the ground you are standing on is HOLY!
6. Unity – not every man for himself.

**Joshua**
**Vs. 1-2**

1 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. 2 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

**C. **Unpack.

1. Joshua 6 says the gates were securely barred / tightly shut up because of the Israelites.

The mound, or “tell” of Jericho was surrounded by a great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base. The retaining wall was some four to five meters (12–15 feet) high. On top of that was a mudbrick wall two meters (six feet) thick and about six to eight meters (20–26 feet) high. At the crest of the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 14 meters (46 feet) above the ground level outside the retaining wall (see diagram). This is what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city each day for seven days. Humanly speaking, it was impossible for the Israelites to penetrate the impregnable bastion of Jericho.

2. There were entry and exit points and all of them were on lockdown.

I want to point something very important out....

read the story in the flow from chapter 5 to chapter 6

**Joshua 5:13-6:2**

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”
14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”
15 The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.
Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

D. Your posture is critical.
   1. How do you approach what’s next?
   2. Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence.... “What message does my Lord have for his servant?
   3. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.”
   4. And Joshua did so.

Application
   1. Your posture determines your vision. what you can see.

Proverbs 16:18
Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

Matthew 5:5
God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

   E. You cannot see what God sees until you humble yourself.
      1. God says.... See that impossible city to conquer.... See that...
      2. Well I have given it to you....

Joshua 6:2
Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.

   3. You have got to see it.
   4. You get the city as well as King and Fighting men.
      a. King represents the authority.
      b. Fighting men represents the security and fortification of the new place.

Application
   1. Some of you are surprised you made it this far.
   2. God says I am not done with you yet.
   3. That territory that you think is absolutely impossible, impenetrable, impassible.
   4. If you will get down low I want to show you what I see.
   5. God is Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts. God of the armies of heaven.
   6. I deliver and advance my people to new territory.
Request / Petition
Help us to join you in your battles.
Open our eyes to see the new territory you are leading us into.
Strengthen us with boldness to “possess new land.”
Grant us the wisdom and vision we need to go to conquer new territory.
God has new territory for me to conquer.

II. God gives me his winning strategy.
instructions on how to win / advance.
I will receive his instructions.

Vs. 3-5

3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

A. Unpack.
1. Here is the plan.
2. Armed guard is first.
3. 7 priests carry trumpets of rams horns second.
4. Arc of the Covenant.
5. Behind them is the rear guard.
B. The center piece is the Arc of the Covenant.
1. God’s presence is in the middle.
2. Inside of the Arc of the Covenant
   a. Ten Commandments – God’s Law / commands (Unchangeable, Unshakable, Active and Living)
   b. Jar of manna – God’s supernatural, generous, gracious provision.
   c. Aaron’s budding staff – Godly authority.
      Inside Sometime during the wilderness wanderings, God commanded that a bowl of manna be added to the ark’s cargo: “Moses said to Aaron, ‘Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the Lord to be kept for the generations to come.’ As the Lord commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved” (Exodus 16:33–34).

After the rebellion of Korah, God commanded the leader of each tribe of Israel to bring a staff to the tabernacle. The name of each leader was inscribed in his staff; the tribe of Levi bore Aaron’s name. God instructed
that the staffs be placed in the tabernacle overnight. The next morning, *Aaron’s rod* “had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds” ([Numbers 17:8](#)) as a sign of God’s blessing on the Levitical priesthood. God then said, “Put back Aaron’s staff in front of the ark of the covenant law, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious” (verse 10).

So, by the time Israel reached the Promised Land, the ark was associated with the items mentioned in [Hebrews 9:4](#): the stone tablets, the bowl of manna, and the staff of Aaron.

3. **On top of the Box or Arc was the Mercy Seat.**
   The real significance of the Ark of the Covenant was what took place involving the lid of the box, known as the "Mercy Seat." The term ‘mercy seat’ comes from a Hebrew word meaning “to cover, placate, appease, cleanse, cancel or make atonement for.” It was here that the high priest, only once a year ([Leviticus 16](#)), entered the Holy of Holies where the Ark was kept and atoned for his sins and the sins of the Israelites. The priest sprinkled blood of a sacrificed animal onto the Mercy Seat to appease the wrath and anger of God for past sins committed. This was the only place in the world where this atonement could take place.

C. **Blood stained box.**
   1. 40 years of blood.
   2. 40 years of sacrifice.
   3. 40 years of atonement.

**Illustration**
Demonstrate the Arc.

D. **March around Jericho once a day for 6 days.**
   1. On the seventh day were gonna do something different.
   2. They had never seen anything like this before.
   3. They had no reference point for this.
   4. They had so history of this.
   5. All together new.

**Illustration**
It was as if God was saying that the way to win in my kingdom is completely different.
You can’t strive enough.
You can’t work enough.
You can’t use your weapons.
You can’t outsmart or out maneuver the enemy.
What you can do is trust me.
What you can do is keep me in the center.
What you can do is let the whole thing revolve around me.
I AM ENOUGH.
My Word – My Provision – My Authority
Covering all of this is the blood.

• **My Word** is sealed in blood...
• **My Provision** is through the blood...
• **My Authority** (intercession and declaration) on the earth operates because of the power of the blood.
• **All of it** underneath the covering of the blood...

**Vs. 6**
6 So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” 7 And he ordered the army, “Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.”

**Application**
1. God has a strategy for your victory.
2. Keep him at the center – Assure us of your abiding presence as we advance.
3. Surround your promise with the Word of God.
4. Surround your promise with the provision of God.
5. Surround your promise with the priestly office – intercession and speaking with the authority of God on behalf of God.

**III. I will trust God to remove every barrier.**

**Vs. 15-16**
15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!

**Vs. 20**
20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.
A. Unpack.
   1. Go through the scenario.

B. Though it seemed foolish, Joshua followed God’s instructions to the letter. When
the people did finally shout, the massive walls collapsed instantly, and Israel won
an easy victory. In fact, God had given the city of Jericho to them before they
even began to march around its walls (Joshua 6:2, 16). It was when the people of
God, by faith, followed the commands of God that the walls of Jericho fell down
(Joshua 6:20).

Romans 15:4
For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through
the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

C. The description of the complete obliteration of Jericho was recorded in Scripture
in order to teach us several lessons.
   1. Most important is that obedience, even when God’s commands seem foolish,
brings victory. When we are faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, we
must learn that our Jericho victories are won only when our faithful obedience
to God is complete (Hebrews 5:9; 1 John 2:3; 5:3).
   2. There is a vast difference between God’s way and the way of man (Isaiah
55:8–9). Though militarily it was irrational to assault Jericho in the manner it
was done, we must never question God’s purpose or instructions. We must
have faith that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do
(Hebrews 10:23; 11:1).
   3. The power of God is supernatural, beyond our comprehension (Psalm 18:13–
15; Daniel 4:35; Job 38:4–6). The walls of Jericho fell, and they fell instantly.
The walls collapsed by the sheer power of God.
   4. There is an uncompromising relationship between the grace of God and our
faith and obedience to Him.

Hebrews 11:30
By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days

Unpack
• Although their faith had frequently failed in the past, in this instance the children of
Israel believed and trusted God and His promises.
• As they were saved by faith, so we are today saved by faith (Romans 5:1; John 3:16–18).
• Yet faith must be evidenced by obedience.
• The children of Israel had faith, they obeyed, and the walls of Jericho fell “by faith” after they were circled for seven straight days.
• Saving faith impels us to obey God (Matthew 7:24–29; Hebrews 5:8–9; 1 John 2:3–5).

5. In addition, the story tells us that God keeps His promises.
   a. The walls of Jericho fell because God said they would.
   b. God’s promises to us today are just as certain.
   c. They are just as unswerving.
   d. They are exceedingly great and wonderfully precious

**Application**

1. **Imitate faithful examples.**

**Hebrews 6:11-12**
11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

2. **Persevere.**

**Hebrews 10:36**
You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

3. **March as if the promises of God are for you.**

**Colossians 3:23-24**
23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.