

Message: “JOSHUA: CONFIDENCE” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 2/6/22

Description: Israel’s military invasion of Jericho was one of the most head-scratching, mind-boggling approach’s to warfare in the history of man-kind. Yet again, Joshua learns that God’s ways are higher than our ways. God thoughts are higher than our thoughts (read Isaiah 55:8-9 to your group). Even when the Lord’s plan doesn’t seem to make any sense at all—we must trust and obey.

Key Scripture: Joshua 6:1-14

Takeaway / Application: God does what He does in order that He will be glorified and worshiped. If the Lord’s battle plan was followed in this story—the outcome and victory would be a miraculous testimony that Jehovah is God alone and He has complete power and authority over His creation. Knowing that reality, we too can have CONFIDENCE to do what God instructs us to do even when we don’t fully understand it.

- Isn’t it a great comfort to know that the Lord already knows the outcome of what we haven’t even yet engaged in? It is! And the Lord affirmed to Joshua in (6:2) that Israel would be victorious before they took the first step. Could you share with your group an area in your life that you are doubting the outcome? Allow your group to encourage you and share with you Scriptures to place your confidence in God’s sovereign power.
- The Lord’s battle plan was unusual to say the least (6:3-5). Would you buy in to the plan to march around the enemy’s city thirteen times before you engaged them in battle? With that big of an army to manage, that many people to lead, feed, keep quiet—it just seems so odd. The physical fatigue, preparing your troops minds and psyches for the impending invasion...why this strategy? Joshua had to once again rely upon and trust in God’s wisdom over his own. Can you share with your group a testimony of how God worked a miracle in a way that you initially thought was a mistake or a blunder by the Lord?
- Joshua 6:6-9 is one of the key’s to Israel’s soon-to-be victory. The ark of the covenant, which represented God’s presence and power, was present with them while they marched around Jericho. Without God’s presence in our life we are doomed. In your daily march, responsibilities, the battles you’re engaged in—do have the presence of God in you and around you? Is His presence leading you, guiding you, protecting you, empowering you? Read Psalm 16:8-11. Discuss the impact of God’s presence in this passage.
- If we have prepared our hearts, and we have and are in the presence of God, to know and see and attain God’s victory, we must endure, be faithful, and follow God’s plan for the long haul! This was a giant undertaking to keep marching around a city without talking, without fighting...just march. But in His perfect timing, God honors our obedience and faithfulness. Read Galatians 6:9 and share an example of your endurance—and God’s blessing after it.