

Overcoming the impossible

Joshua 6

Key Points:

- Jericho was a huge city in the ancient near East, with 6ft thick, 50ft high walls, around 1.5miles in circumference. In terms of stopping the Israelites receiving their inheritance from God, this was a massive obstacle! But God had made a 400-year-old promise to the Israelites that this land was His, and He was giving it to His people. God still makes promises to His people throughout Scripture - God will come into our lives if we ask Him (Luke 11.9-13), God will give us His peace (Phil 4.6-7), God will save us (Romans 10.9-10), and He will set us free (John 8.36) etc.
- God's plan for delivering Jericho to the Israelites was not obvious. God's plan for us overcoming impossible obstacles that prevent us from receiving His promises may not be obvious either. But that didn't stop Joshua and Israelites from walking round Jericho 13 times in 7 days, in silence!
- For us, Jericho is spelled many different ways. If you have cancer, it's spelled *healing*. If your child is far from God, it's spelled *salvation*. If your marriage is falling apart, it's spelled *reconciliation*. If you have a vision beyond your resources, it's spelled *provision*.
- We can't overcome the impossible, but God can (and has!). Prayer is what God has given us to participate, and praying for the impossible is where we start. That's what circling our Jerichos looks like.

Questions:

1. How do you think you would have felt as one of the Israelites? After 40 years of wilderness wandering, traversing the Jordan and full of expectation that God was finally delivering on His promises, now there was this Jericho-sized obstacle in the way.
2. Do you believe in the power of prayer? Where have you seen your prayers answered, and where have you not? Are the answers always how you'd imagined?
3. Why do you think God instructed Israel to use unconventional means to overcome Jericho? How can we be sure that God has answered our prayers rather than *just coincidence*? [hint: specific prayers, beyond our control tend to bring more glory to God than vague, 'limited' ones!]
4. There are parts of this account that are difficult. All the men and women of Jericho (except Rahab and her relatives) were destroyed (v.21, v.24-25). How can we reconcile this with the full revelation of God through Jesus?
5. What's your Jericho? What are the obstacles blocking your journey with God right now?
6. Israel used the same ram's horns for battle as they did for worship. What is significant about this? How might this affect our worship?
7. Read Matthew 20.39-34. Why did Jesus ask the blind men what they wanted him to do? Why is it important for us to *know* what we're praying for?
8. What are some of the promises that God has made to you? [searching through Scripture is a fantastic place to start!]
9. What promise of God are you going to commit to praying for until you see breakthrough? [Remember - be specific, spell it out, be prepared to persevere!]