

Week Eight 6/2/18

JOSHUA

"A Study in Strength"

Lessons from Gilgal:

Trust:

Before we look at what we can learn as men from the walls of Jericho coming down, we must look at a couple of events that preceded the walls coming down.

1. Was the reproach of Egypt was rolled back at Gilgal:

Then the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day. (Joshua 5:9)

The name Gilgal means "wheel," or "rolling" in Hebrew.

God has rolled away the scorn, shame, disgrace, (reproach) from Egypt.

1. God was teaching them to trust...but first they had to overcome the mindset that they were still slaves in Egypt. In Egypt they were treated badly, but everything they needed to survive was provided for them. They had a place to sleep, they had food, they had what they needed to survive so they could continue to work for Pharaoh.

2. God was teaching them to trust in Him for their provisions and to start thinking as free, redeemed people.

And God does that by having them celebrate Passover...A reminder of their redemption.

3. God also takes away the Manna...and teaches them to trust in Him to provide in other ways...he wouldn't just give them their food...now they would have to work the fields and trust in God for the outcome. The food was no longer visible...they had to in faith trust that God would provide for them.

4. God had them circumcise themselves as a reminder of the covenant He made with them.

The over event that happened at Gilgal was that Jesus appeared to Joshua:

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?" 14 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?" 15 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 5:13-15)

Two things (There are more) that I want to point out here:

1. "No," Are you for us or against us? The answer Jesus gives is, "No."

The question focused on the wrong element of this battle...the real question should have been, "Are you for Jesus?"

2. Submission...Joshua falls on his face in complete submission to the Lord.

So, before we look at Jericho and the lessons we can learn from this victory...we must remember that:

1. We are no longer slaves to the bondage of sin...we have been set free
2. It is not good for us to dwell or revel in the past...but it is good to remember where we once were and how far the Lord has brought us.
3. How God will provide may not always be visible...but we trust that He will provide!
4. We are to remember the New Covenant that Jesus made with us by the shedding of His blood.
5. We need to ask the question...are we for Jesus...or do we stand with the world (How does the way we live our lives answer that question?)
6. Are we in total submission to Jesus?

Lessons from the Wall:

Joshua 6:1-27

A. Putting up Walls:

1. The people of Jericho locked themselves in...the city was on lock down...no one came in, no one came out...there was no way in no way out.

Q. Have we built walls to keep people from coming into our lives and keep them from learning about you. They can't come in, and you won't come out?

2. Jericho was a fortified city...a stronghold.

Q. Do you have any strongholds in your life that you have become comfortable living in?

B. Tearing down those Walls:

1. God instructed them to put the priests ahead of the ark and to form a rear guard behind the ark...the focus was on the ark.

We have victory over our strongholds only when we focus on Jesus!

Q. How do you put Jesus first, how does He become the focus of your everyday life?

2. They were to march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day they were to march around the city walls seven times and the priest were to blow the trumpets. They were to do this in total silence, until the last day when they heard the long blast on the trumpet...they were to shout, and the walls would come down.

- God is patient, He gives us time to repent
- Victory is the Lord's...we can't overcome, we overcome through Him
- When we do it God's way (Obey His Word) the walls will come down.
- Keep silent, its not how you overcame anything, shout to the world that Jesus gave you the victory.
- Trust in God's plan even when it doesn't make sense to you
- Follow God's instructions (His Word) and you will have victory.

Following God is putting one foot in front of the other...and walking with Him every step of the way. Moment by moment, trusting in Him,

