**THE FALL OF JERICHO**

Sunday School Lesson 25

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Joshua 6

6/29/2025

**Lesson Review:** In our twenty-fourth lesson, we looked at a special appearance of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Joshua after the Israelites had crossed over into the Promised Land. The Captain’s appearance aligned with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ disappearance. When Israel entered into the Promised Land, the manna ceased after the Israelites ate the food of the land and observed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feast. The appearance of the Captain signified that there was something much greater than the manna they had eaten in the wilderness. They had the living \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and He was willing to supply all of their needs. Secondly, the Captain’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aligned with the Jericho dilemma. The Lord chose to appear to Joshua by Jericho as the Captain of the host. He could have appeared in whatever apparel He chose, so it was significant that He appeared as the Captain. We noticed also that the Captain stood there with His sword \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We understand that the sword of the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God. Thirdly, the Captain’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aligned with the Lord being the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Joshua wanted to know if the Captain was for Israel or for their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but the Captain did not answer the question. After the Captain responded, Joshua quickly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself and make it plain whose side he was on. Lastly, the Captain’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ aligned with the path to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Captain showed Joshua that Israel was going to win against Jericho. Specific \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had to be followed, though, for that success. Let’s look in today’s lesson at the fall of Jericho.

1. **THE DAILY BLOWING OF THE TRUMPETS ANNOUNCED GOD’S PRESENCE, JERICHO’S JUDGMENT, AND ISRAEL’S WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT.**
2. **Notice that the priests’ blowing of the trumpets announced God’s presence to both Israel and Jericho.** *Numbers 10:9 And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies. Exodus 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.* The trumpets that sounded each day around Jericho were a powerful reminder that God Himself was among His people. This wasn’t just a military ritual; it was a spiritual declaration that the Lord was leading the procession. In the Bible, trumpets consistently mark God’s presence, as seen at Mount Sinai when the people trembled at His nearness. The trumpets had a dual purpose in announcing God’s presence. It was a way to witness to Jericho and to remind and comfort Israel.
3. **Notice that the priests’ blowing of the trumpets announced God’s judgment to the people of Jericho.** *Amos 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it? 7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. Ezekiel 33:3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; 4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.* The daily trumpet blasts were not only for Israel's benefit, but also served as a divine warning to the inhabitants of Jericho. God was giving the city a full week to consider their fate and respond in humility, just as Rahab had done earlier. Trumpets often signaled danger and called people to prepare or repent. No one in the city could claim that they didn’t hear the warning signs of judgment.
4. **Notice that the priests’ blowing of the trumpets announced God’s command for Israel to go to battle.** *1 Corinthians 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? Ezekiel 7:14 They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.* The trumpet blasts were not simply ritualistic noise; they were Israel's way of signaling their readiness to follow God's orders into battle. The daily blasts at Jericho showed that Israel was spiritually and physically prepared to do whatever God commanded, even if the plan was unorthodox. Their willingness to blow the trumpets each day in faith and without results until the seventh day showed their full submission to God's timing. For believers, we must be willing to engage in spiritual battle by faith, trusting the Lord's plan even when the outcome is not immediately visible. As royal priests, we ought to blow the trumpets for battle.
5. **THE WALKING AROUND THE CITY ANNOUNCED THAT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ISRAEL HAD NOT CHANGED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE EXODUS. THEY WERE TO WALK IN FAITH!**
6. **Notice that God called the Israelites to walk by faith through the wilderness, and He still required it in the Promised Land.** *Deuteronomy 8:1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers. 2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.* God didn’t bring Israel out of Egypt to turn them into warriors; He brought them out to make them a people of faith. Their entire wilderness experience was training—not for military conquest—but for spiritual obedience. When God told them to march around Jericho, it was not a delay or a trick; it was a test. He was asking if they would trust Him even if the instructions He gave to them did not make sense. God’s plan hadn’t changed. From the Red Sea to the walls of Jericho, it was always about His children walking in faith.
7. **Notice that their willingness to walk around Jericho showed that the Israelites were truly ready to trust in the Lord and His power and plan.** *Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. James 2:21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.* Often, it’s lost in this story how difficult it would have been for Israel to receive the marching orders for Jericho. Can you imagine walking around for forty years, and when you finally think you’re finished with it, the Captain tells you to do some more walking? That’s exactly what happened with the battle of Jericho. Israel’s willingness to walk shows the growth of their faith in the Lord. Incredibly, they walked for days without seeing any visible results. God revealed nothing to them along the way. All they could do was trust that God had things under control. This is what James speaks of when it comes to faith. Our faith ought to cause us to walk, regardless of any outcomes that we might or might not see.
8. **THE SILENCE OF THE CONGREGATION REVEALED THEIR REVERENCE AND DISCIPLINE.**
9. **Notice that Joshua commanded the congregation to remain silent until they had received instruction from him to shout.** *Joshua 6:10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. 11 So the ark of the Lord compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.* There are three main elements of the story of the fall of Jericho. There’s the trumpet blowing of the priests, the walking of the people, and the silence and shouting at the end. Interestingly, we do not see in the Bible that the Lord expressly forbade the Israelites from speaking. That order came from Joshua. Perhaps, the Lord gave the orders, but the Bible did not record that portion of the conversation for us. On the other hand, it may have been that Joshua wanted the Israelites to show reverence to God’s presence seen with the ark and the priests. Maybe Joshua was concerned that the people would say foolish things that would lead to God punishing the people. Either way, it’s clear that their silence was done in reverence to the Lord. There’s a time for silence. There’s a time where there’s nothing for us to say. We must just stand in awe at God’s work.
10. **Notice that the Israelites were committed to the command of silence, and they showed great discipline throughout the seven days.** *Joshua 6:15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. 16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.* Joshua issued a clear command for silence, and the people obeyed without complaint or question. For seven days, they marched in complete stillness—a major contrast from their forefathers who had often murmured and spoken out against Moses and the Lord. Their ability to remain quiet showed spiritual maturity and unity under God’s appointed leadership. There was no grumbling, no questioning, and no strategizing—just obedience. In a world that often values quick responses and constant noise, God still honors the discipline of those who are willing to walk quietly in faith until the time He appoints for action. The silence of the entire congregation feels like a great miracle in itself, and it simply shows what is possible when people of faith are committed to following the Lord.