

WEEK 6 : Uncommon Choices : Choosing Audacious Faith

WARM UP: This week we studied one of the most iconic war scenes in history, the Battle of Jericho. In the sermon, Dan mentioned how hard it is to watch a wartime movie with someone who is either currently serving in the military, or who has previously served in the military. Therefore, as you think back on wartime movies, which movie was your favorite, and which one was your worst?

READ Joshua 6 aloud. The Battle of Jericho not only defied the impossible when it came to the defeat of Jericho, but it defied the wisdom of man and put on display the incredible wisdom, and power, of God.

- As you read this account of battle, obedience, victory, and faith, what parts of the story stand out to you? Though you may be familiar with the story, was there something that you hadn't seen before and now God brought it to light?
- When you think of the audacious faith that Joshua, and the people of Israel, needed to carry out the battle plan of God, what things stand out to you? Do you think you would have had the same type of immediate, and radical, faith to trust God with an absurd plan?

Each person deals with their own "Jerichos" in life. These are things in life that seem immovable, impossible to conquer, and quite overwhelming. It can take the form of sinful habits you can't shake, physical diseases, relational strifes, and more. And most of the time we employ a battle plan according to our own wisdom, and not God's.

- What are some "battle plans" you have used to conquer the "Jerichos" in your life? What are some "battle plans" that our culture says are appropriate to use in times of hardship or struggle?
- Why can it be easier to use the "battle plans" of the world rather than the "battle plans" of God? What are some things that cause you to use your own rather than God's "battle plans"?
- On the flip side, what are some things that cause you to use God's "battle plans" rather than yours?

Dan shared 3 ways that we can fight the "Jerichos" that we have in our lives that are found in the story in Joshua.

1. Presence - God was clear that the Ark of the Covenant was to be carried during their marches. The Ark represented the presence of God. Therefore God wanted His presence in the middle of the battle. Why was His presence imperative in the battle of Jericho? Why is His presence imperative in the battle of "Jerichos" we face in our lives?
2. Praise - God commanded the people to worship Him during their marches in the form of the participation of the priests and the blowing of the trumpets. What about worship is helpful when you go out to battle your "Jerichos"? What are some worship songs that you try and incorporate into your life?
3. Proclaim - After marching for seven days, and circling the city 7 times that last day, the people were to let out a shout. The shout was a proclamation of the victory over the city by the power of God. As Christians we have victory over the "Jerichos" in our lives because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. What promises, or proclamations, from Scripture remind you of the victory you have in Christ? Why is it so important to understand we fight from a place of victory? How does that change the way you fight?

WRAP UP: It was easy for Joshua, and for the people, to obey God's "battle plan" because their confidence laid in the faithfulness that God had already put on display for them. They had faith in the plan-maker, not in the plan itself. If there is anyone going through a "Jericho Battle" in your group, spend some time praying for them and proclaiming the promise of victory you have through Jesus.