

# No Battle at Jericho

**Joshua 5: 13-15; 6: 1-5**

What comes to you mind  
when you hear ...

- Joshua and the battle of Jericho?

# Fact #1

- Jericho symbolized the very thing that had terrified 10 out of 12 Hebrew spies 40 years earlier
- “... the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak!”

(Numbers 13: 28;

NLT)

# Fact #2

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When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

(Joshua 6: 20)

# Real battle in conquering Canaan ...

- was not defeating the people living in Canaan
- was all about conquering the unbelief and stubborn hearts of God's people
- Here's what Moses said about them:  
“For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the Lord while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die!” (Deut. 31: 27)

# Success is contingent on ...

- complete / total obedience to God

Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!” (Joshua 1: 16-18)

# Joshua led by his complete obedience to the Lord

- The Lord said to Joshua (4:1)
- So Joshua ... said to them (4:4)
- So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them (4:8)

Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan.”

So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.”

And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the Lord. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before. (Joshua 4: 16-18)

# Joshua 5: Preparations for Battle

- Many find this chapter's events enigmatic, puzzling, mysterious, hard to understand ...

Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites. (Joshua 5: 1)

# What would you have done next ?

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth. (Joshua 5: 2-3)

On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. (Joshua 5: 10)

# What happened next ?

The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan. (Joshua 5: 11-12)

# Joshua's encounter with the man with a drawn sword

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

(Joshua 5: 13)

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” (Joshua 5: 14)

## Elisha at Dothan

“Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

## Elisha at Dothan – 2 Kings 6: 8-23

“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

(2 Kings 6: 13-17)

## Jesus at Gethsemane – Matt. 26: 47-54

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” (Matthew 26: 53-54)

## Joshua's response ?

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” (Joshua 5: 14a)

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” (Joshua 5: 14b)

The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. (Joshua 5: 15)

# Final Questions

- ❑ What do you think the events of Joshua chapter 5 were meant to teach God's people?
- ❑ What do you think God wanted to teach Joshua through his encounter with the man with a drawn sword?
- ❑ Do you find yourself overwhelmed with the challenges of life?
- ❑ How have you been facing your "Jericho"?
- ❑ Who's in charge of your life's battles?