

Real Life...*Heroes*

Today's Message: Let the Walls Fall Down - 2

Today's Passage: The Book of Joshua

Much of the book of Joshua presents a PARADOX. We read that God gave the land to the Israelites, and then we find they still had to take it by using military force. Clearly, this promise of possessing the land was conditional. God promised to give the land to the Israelites, but then He instructed them to enter in and fight for it. Could God have simply evacuated the cities of Canaan leaving only a welcome mat outside the city gates? Certainly! Yet, God did not do that. Instead, He used the conquest of the Promised Land as a means of establishing a unique relationship of trust and obedience with His people. Had the Israelites simply rushed into an abandoned Canaan and moved into their homes and farms, they would have quickly forgotten the Lord. Instead, God allowed them to face one challenge after another. At every turn, they realized that without God's intervention, they would fail. Like Israel of old, South Valley Community Church is facing a challenge designed to cause us to both trust God and also fight for our future. Our current development plans have been challenged by some in the community. Tomorrow night, we must cross the Jordan by getting our feet wet if we ever hope to see our promised land. Please join us as we appeal to the City Council for permission to go forward.

I. Joshua - The Man. Exodus 17, 24, 32, 33

He was a servant, soldier and a student of the Bible.

II. Joshua - The Mission. Joshua 1, 2

Conquer Canaan, beginning with Jericho.

III. Joshua - The Method. Joshua 3-5

A. The parting of the Jordan River. Ch. 3

"As soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam...so the people crossed over opposite Jericho. "

B. Getting right with God. Ch. 4 and 5

C. Submitting to the Lordship of Christ. 5:13-15

"Not until we take the place of a servant can He take His place as Lord." Chinese Bible teacher - Watchman Nee

IV. Joshua - The Match Up.

A. Biblical Archaeology Review, March/April issue, 1990, Archaeologist Bryant Wood.

B. U.S. News and World Report, October 1991.

"The city's walls do appear to have collapsed suddenly and the blackened timbers and stones, as well as a layer of soot dating to 1400 B.C., all suggest that the city burned, as the Bible says it did. Archeologist, Kathleen Kenyon, also found bushels of grain on the site, consistent with the Bible's account of a springtime conquest so rapid that Jericho's besieged populace had not exhausted their food."

C. TIME, March 5, 1990, "Score One for the Bible."

V. Joshua - The Message. Joshua 5:1-6:27

A. First, we must understand that consecration comes before _____.

B. No matter how overwhelming the "enemy's walls" may seem, we must remember that as Christians—as "soldiers in the Army of the Lord"—we fight _____ victory not for it.

C. The next step in Joshua's plan was to be _____ before the Lord.

D. The ultimate key to victory: Unquestioned and continued _____.

