

# Home Group Questions

The week of 2/3/2019

Joshua 5:13-6:20

## FAITH TO DO WHAT'S "FOOLISH"

### **GETTING STARTED...**

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel preached on the account of Joshua and the battle of Jericho, and how it pertains to our approach to obstacles, challenges, and trials in our lives!

### **LOOKING IN THE WORD...**

**1. Read Joshua 5:13-6:20.** Put yourself in Joshua's place. His task is to convince the Israelites that marching around the city for seven days and then shouting/blowing trumpets will topple the walls of Jericho. What are some thoughts Joshua must have had when implementing this plan? How might the people of Jericho have responded after 6 days of marching and seeing nothing happening? Talk about Rahab and the faith she had to stand against the unbelief of Jericho and place her faith in the God of Israel.

**2. Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-31.** What aspects of the Gospel message appear foolish to the world? Why do you think God chose a plan for salvation that appears to be foolish in the world's eyes? For those who came to Christ later in life, can you relate to the Gospel appearing foolish to you at first, but now see God's wisdom throughout His salvation plan?

**3.** Comparisons are made between entering the Promised Land (i.e. facing obstacles like Jericho) to the battle we face as believers to work through our sanctification. Even though our salvation was a work of God, our sanctification is a work in which we cooperate with the working of God in our lives.

Sanctification is something that causes us to own our responsibility in the process and allow our salvation to change every area of our lives. What are some characteristics or realities the Israelites faced in conquering the land that God promised that are similar to what we go through in the process of sanctification (i.e. the Israelites had to fight for the land even though God had promised it to them)?

**4. Read Philippians 2:12-16.** Working out your salvation with fear and trembling (v. 12) refers to taking the implications of your saving faith in Christ and allowing those truths to change every aspect of your life. Pastor Mel gave a list of things that will hinder your growth in the Lord. Read over the list and identify ways in which each of these aspects can be seen in our lives, and ways in which we can combat them as we grow in our maturity:

### ***Ways in which we work against God's plan:***

- ◆ **Complacency**
- ◆ **Small Compromises**
- ◆ **Self-Centered Lifestyle**
- ◆ **Unteachable Spirit/Pride**
- ◆ **Busyness**

**5.** Pastor Mel has defined walking by faith as: "Trusting and obeying God no matter what the circumstances, because God is in control and promises a good result." How would you defend the fact that God was in control even when the Israelites had to fight for their land, and some had to lose their lives? If God was in control, why couldn't He have simply destroyed all the inhabitants of the Promised Land and allowed the Israelites to move in uncontested?

**6.** Discuss the "Now Whats" from Sunday's sermon:

- 1) Remember that challenges, obstacles, or trials in no way indicate that God has abandoned you.**
- 2) See in your obstacles and trials opportunities for the glory and worthiness of God to be revealed.**
- 3) Develop within your soul a deep conviction that you will never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ or the standards by which He has called us to walk.**
- 4) Remind yourself that in Christ we already have the victory even though it may feel like we're just "marching around walls."**

### **MOVING FORWARD...**

Pray that God will increase your faith when facing obstacles, so that you will follow God more closely through those trials.