

Jericho Falls
11/9/14
Joshua 3:1-17, 4:24, 6:1-6 and 20-23

Joshua 4:14- *That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.*

Joshua 4:24- *He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”*

Joshua 6:27- *So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.*

True success—aligning your life with The Lord. How would you define success?

The whole focus of the Bible and specifically these 4 chapters is for God’s name to be lifted up and God often does this in and through His people.

Hudson Taylor says there are 3 ways to God’s Work:

1) Make the best plans we can, and carry them out to the best of our ability.

Focus: we make the plans and then we carry them out. Our plans often are not God’s plans. What if Joshua had done this?

This consists of us taking charge, making decisions on our own, and doing what we “think” is right! *“Each man did what was right in his own eyes.”* **Judges 21:25**

2) Having carefully laid our plans and determined to carry them through, we may ask God to help us and to prosper us in connection with them.

Again we make the plans but we ask God if He will bless them.

Unfortunately this is often what we do...we determine our plans and then ask God if He will join and bless us! Then we often get mad or angry when things don’t work out, when truly we are to blame.

“Have you ever gotten impatient with the Lord, wondering why God doesn't move sooner? You can do the right thing in the wrong time. Moses was to deliver the children of Israel and he couldn't wait on God, he got out there ahead of time, tried to be a missionary, ended up being a murderer, killed an Egyptian, spent forty years on the back side of the desert, going around in circles because he could not wait on God. He moved before God moved. Moses was promised he was going to deliver the children of Israel, couldn't wait on God. Abraham was promised a son, couldn't wait on God so he had physical, sexual relations with his wife's maid, Hagar, and brought forth a son Ishmael and today the whole world is still in turmoil because Abraham could not wait on God and the sons of Ishmael and the sons of Isaac are at war today and Abraham just thought he would hurry God up a little bit, made a mess out of it”. The Adrian Rogers Legacy Collection - The Adrian Rogers Legacy Collection – Sermons.

What if Joshua had done this?

3) Begin with God, ask Him His plans, and to offer ourselves to Him to carry out His purposes. Joshua did this!

How are we to do this? Like Joshua did!

- a. **Be guided by God's presence-**
- The Ark led the people (Joshua 3:3-4). We don't have to know where, just need to know how...by God's directions. When the Ark moved, they moved. The Ark was God's presence.
 - We are not to be guided by our own whims, desires, or where we think we ought to go, but where God leads. Where we choose to go often leads to destruction or regret.
 - We can know and be guided by God's presence
 - **Scripture**
 - **Prayer**
 - **Worship**
 - **Fellowship**
 - **Seek, hear, listen and follow**
 - We should not expect to clearly hear God's voice if we are not in the position to do so.
- b. **Be reminded of God's promises**
- Joshua and Moses' lives overlapped
 - Joshua would have known of God's faithfulness along with the promises and provisions He gave the Israelites.
 - *Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it. **Joshua 3:4***
 - We see God's promises all over scripture
 - a. Proverbs 3:5-6- **Trust God** in all, he will direct you.
 - b. Matthew 6:33- **Seek God** and all will be added to you!
 - c. Romans 16:20- God will **crush** Satan
 - d. You know why we don't obey the Lord sometimes, because we don't trust. And you know why we don't trust is, dear friend, we do not know how great our God is. Knowledge of God equals trust and trust equals obedience and obedience equals blessing. The Adrian Rogers Legacy Collection - The Adrian Rogers Legacy Collection – Sermons.
- c. **Be aware of those who have gone before us.**
- Note their obedience or disobedience and its consequences or blessings.
 - Abraham, Noah, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, John, Paul
 - Judas, Wicked kings, people who went their own way.
 - God has promised that although we may have trouble in this world, He will walk hand in hand with us. He will never leave or forsake us.

Are you making your own plans and carrying them out your own way?

Are you making your own plans and then asking God to bless your mess?

Are you beginning with God, asking Him His plans and following Him?

Are you putting yourself in a position to hear from God?