

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23

What does impossible mean?

Name some things that seem as if they would be impossible to accomplish.

Prayer

Lord who makes and controls all things in this world, today we are studying about how You can make all things possible for You are omnipotent. As we learn to understand and trust Your power and wisdom, help us to obey You in all things and not question what You command us to do. Help us learn today from the Children of Israel that all things are possible with You. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 6:1-27

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

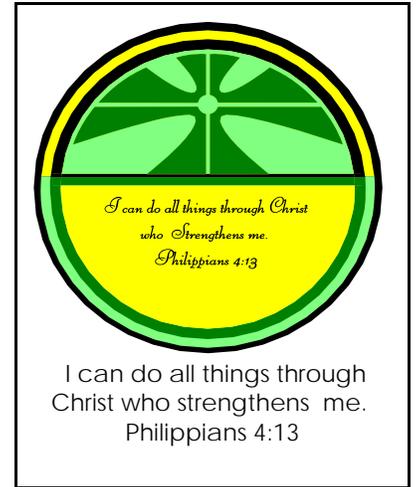
{2} And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. {3} "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. {4} "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. {5} "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

{6} Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." {7} And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march

around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

{8} So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. {9} The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. {10} Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout." {11} So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

{12} And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. {13} Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and



blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. {14} And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

{15} But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. {16} And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! {17} "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. {18} "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. {19} "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD." {20} So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the

foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

{27} So the LORD was with Joshua,

sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. {21} And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

{22} But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." {23} And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

{24} But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. {25} And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

{26} Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its

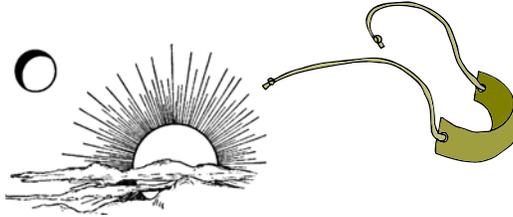
and his fame spread throughout all the country.

What the Story Tells Us - Take turns briefly summarizing the story 4 times from a different point of view. Use no more than 3 sentences in your summaries. Tell or write the story as would (1) Joshua, (2) a soldier in the city of Jericho, (3) a soldier of the Children of Israel and (4) as Rahab.

Outer Aim - Our all-powerful God used Joshua and the Children of Israel to destroy the wicked city of Jericho.

What God Tells Us - What is wrong with the attitudes portrayed in the following sentences?

1. "The people of Jericho, as other Godless people, get away with evil all the time."
2. "The people of Jericho deserved to die because they were so Godless."
3. "No one could destroy such a powerful city as Jericho."
4. "We shouldn't have killed all the people of the city. We could have saved them."
5. "God won't destroy us because we are not as wicked as were the people of Jericho."



Passages - Decide which passage listed below could be applied to the improper attitudes displayed above. Place the number of the situation above in the blank by each passage below.

- ___ Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- ___ Psalm 103:8-9 - The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.
- ___ Job 20:4-7 - Do you not know this of old, since man was placed on earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds, yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'
- ___ Acts 5:29 - But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men."
- ___ Matthew 19:26 - But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Inner Aim - In His wisdom and almighty power, God will both care for the God-fearing and punish the ungodly.

Your Turn - In our story today, the "impossible" happened, the huge walls of Jericho just fell down. The Bible references listed below show other "impossible" things that are possible. Read the references and explain briefly that "impossible" thing.

1 Samuel 17:40-51

Joshua 10:12-14

Matthew 17:20

Matthew 9:20-22

1 Thessalonians 4:14

Hymn - Stanzas 1 and 4 of Hymn 528 could be sung by both the Children of Israel at Jericho or by us in our life. Read those stanzas and explain what comfort could be taken by both of the groups mentioned.

If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

My Jesus is my Splendor,
My Sun, my Light, alone;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awe-full throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.

Prayer

Lord with You, all things are possible. Today we saw how You helped the Children of Israel overcome impossible odds by defeating the people of Jericho. Even more unlikely is the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus to save us who are as wicked as those people in Jericho. Teach us to have faith that You are in control and that You are always making sure that everything that happens is for our good. We pray this in Your name, Lord, and in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.