

## Falling Walls - Part 1

Paul Bengier

### Joshua 5:13-6:9 NIV

*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?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" 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.*

*Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.*

### A Hard Place can be a Holy place

A place where God is present, where God is at work.  
It might never be the same again.

Israel had been wandering the wilderness for many years. Joshua is encouraging them that this is now the moment to possess the land.

They encountered resistance. It was a hard place but a holy place.

God was going to use the opposition for good and for his glory.

In every shift there's often obstacles that we face.  
We're in a season like that. We're shifting from one place to another.  
It's a transition moment. Like it was for them.

Walls we have to overcome. Fortified walls.

A change moment can be exciting but it can be fearful too.

In change moments we can feel overwhelmed...but God is present and he is at work.

3 things that God teaches Joshua (and us) as he transitions...as God leads him:

## **#1 Keep Trusting**

*Because battles give birth to new faith*

If we keep trusting.

When we do face opposition it gives birth to faith.

Where God guides, the enemy resists.

Every time God moves, there's opposition.

Look at Jesus...constant opposition yet he never stepped out of the will of God.

As a Church whenever we've moved forward we've faced opposition.

We don't always see the miracle in the midst, but God is at work.

Joshua feels alone, he feels afraid.

God says...be strong and very courageous! **Joshua 1:9**

The battle is an opportunity for a fresh revelation of who God is!

The promise..."I will never leave you or forsake you"

Joshua's faith grew because he saw God at work.

In this season we will see our faith grow.

## **#2 Keep Moving**

*Battles give birth to new places.*

This was their time to take the promised land.

What is it time for you in your life right now?

They were coming up against this fortified city. Jericho was in lockdown.  
Nothing coming, nothing going out.

You can't lockdown the Holy Spirit! You can't lockdown the church!

Movement advances relationships.

**Amos 3:3 (NKJV)**

*Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

Joshua sent in trusted people. Two spies. He wasn't going to make the same mistake of Moses.

Be careful who you walk with in this season. Lean into your people. Find faith-filled friends. Positive people.

**Joshua 4:1-3 (NIV)**

*When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 'Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.'*

They stopped in the middle of the Jordan and took something from it.

We're going to take some new things in the middle of this season!

**#3 Keep Surrendering**

*Battles give birth to new and clearer decisions*

Joshua chose worship and surrender first, before the battle.

Put down your swords and choose worship and surrender.

A place where God gets the glory. When we choose not to fight but to surrender.

There are things we can choose today, even when things seem out of our control.

We don't have to be superman or superwoman! We don't have to be the hero. Let's choose to worship God. Knowing God is on our side.

When there's a Jericho in your way it's good to know who's side you are on.

Joshua chose to give God the glory. To trust in God's strength.

**Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)**

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Joshua handed his future over to God.

What do you need to hand over to God today?

Choose surrender. Choose worship. Watch the walls come tumbling down!!

Keep Trusting

Keep Moving

Keep Surrendering

**Discussion Questions:**

- Any experiences of being in a hard place but discovering it was a holy place, that God was at work? Change moments?
- How can we stay trusting God in those moments?
- How have your friendships/relationships helped you?
- Have you found worship the first place/best place to go to in those times?