

## THE WALLS OF JERICHO

(Joshua 6: 1-21)

Walls are a means of protection, isolation; they serve well in big cities to mark boundaries from non- invited guests, as we read here in the first verse of Joshua one. Now Jericho was tightly closed **because of the Israelites**; no one went out or came in. They sought protection behind their walls, but this time, there would be no wall that would withstand the power of the Almighty God! According to Rahab they well knew who was behind Israel's strength. She said, I know that the Lord has given you the land and that your terror is fallen upon us and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you, for we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. When we heard it, our hearts melted, neither did spirit or courage remain any more in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath (Joshua 1:9-11).

The walls of Jericho had to come down for Israel to conquer the city. They had to follow God's instructions to be successful and victorious. The Lord told them to march around the enclosure, all the men of war going around the city once, for six days, seven priests were to bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horn and on the seventh day they were to march around the enclosure seven times, and the priests were to blow the trumpets, when at the long blast of the trumpets, the people were to shout with a great shout and the wall would fall down. (vs. 3-5)

Naaman, the commander of the army of the king of Syria, had a wall that had to come down, called leprosy. He too had to follow the instructions for his healing: He had to wash in the Jordan seven times for his flesh to be healed and clean. Angry with the idea, he turned and went away in a rage, rejecting the healing water of the Jordan River, because it was dirty. However his servants counseled him to follow the prophet's words, so he went and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, as the man of God had commanded and his flesh was restored like that of a little child, he was now clean! Not only Naaman's physical life was healed, but his spiritual life was changed also because in his obedience he recognized the God of Israel to be the only true God. He said to Elisha, I pray you, let there be given to me, your servant two mules' burden of earth. For your servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice to other gods, but only to the Lord (II Kings 5:1-19). Yes, Naaman's wall of leprosy had to come down through the washing in the waters of the Jordan River, the river where Yahshua was baptized many years later, for him to be found healed and clean. Naaman was not only washed exteriorly but interiorly, when he bent down his pride to obedience to the instructions given him by the prophet.

Many of us still hold on to walls that should be brought down – a thing devoted to destruction, and they continue to be our false securities and stumbling blocks for our spiritual success. We hide ourselves behind those walls and refuse to leave those strong holds of false security; we still carry with us the burial clothes which hinder us from moving forward. They are the sins of iniquity- sins we inherited from our forefathers; they are the sins of great transgression, for

which Yahshua suffered tremendously- for those sins He was crushed in spirit. My friend, if you have had the experience of being born again and have not given up the walls of sins of iniquity, you are not only fooling yourself but you are holding our Savior up to contempt and shame and public disgrace and to that the writer of the letter to the Hebrews said, For if we go on deliberately and willingly sinning after once acquiring the knowledge of the Truth, there is no longer any sacrifice left to atone for sins, but a kind of awful and fearful prospect and expectation of divine judgment and the fury of burning wrath and indignation which will consume those who put themselves in opposition [to God] (Hebrew 10:26-27). No, to live a life of faith is not easy, and if faith is not reflected in your life through your actions it is because you are walking in the paths of deceit, and disobedience and you are under God's judgment.

We can only walk over the walls when they come down, as did the Israelites, and the things devoted to destruction we must not make them walls of false protection. The walls must come down for our spiritual victory in Christ. Perhaps there is a wall of immorality in your life, including pornography. Perhaps you live a double standard life, to cover who you are behind those walls; perhaps because you cannot bring down this wall alone, you have given up and have found a comfortable strong hold behind it. My friend let me tell you, there is forgiveness already waiting you from the Heavenly Father. He said in His Word, Blessed is he who has forgiveness of his transgression, whose sin is covered, blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. When I kept silence [before I confessed] my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long, for day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my moisture was turned into the drought of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity I did not hide, I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord then You forgave me the guilt and iniquity of my sin (Psalm 32: 1-5). The sin of iniquity has strong walls; it is deeply rooted in the soul passing from generation to generation, carrying with it curses of diseases. Recognizing it the Psalmist prayed, Let the sins of iniquity not rule over me. If you desire spiritual freedom, you can pray, Lord tear down the walls and strong holds of iniquity of my life. Mention each one of them with confession and repentance. God is always ready to hear those with contrite hearts and sorrowful for their sins. We read in Isaiah sixty-six and the second part of verse two, But this is the man to whom I will look and have regard: he who is humble and of a broken or wounded spirit, and who tremble at My word and reveres My commands. Psalm fifty-one displays the true repentant heart of King David. He said, Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and guilt and cleanse me and make me wholly pure from my sin! Behold you desire truth in the inner being; make me therefore to know wisdom in my inmost heart; purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow...Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my guilt and iniquities... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me... My sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart such O God, You will not despise (Psalm 51) and that's the promise for all of us who desires purity of heart.

Bring down whatever wall of Jericho that is holding you a prisoner behind it and let God clean your heart, mind and desires.

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

I am Jacinta for Light from the Word Ministry