# TAKING THE CITY! JOSHUA 6:15-16,20

DR. DARRYL T. CANADY

RODMAN STREET CHURCH

9.21.25

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Title: Taking the City: Conquering Obstacles Through Faith and

**Obedience** 

**Sermon Summary:** This powerful sermon explores the biblical account of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, drawing parallels between the Israelites' conquest and modern-day spiritual battles. The lesson emphasizes three key aspects: the compliance of faith (obeying God's commands), the confession of faith (declaring God's promises before seeing results), and the conquest of faith (witnessing God's power in action).

As we march around our own 'Jericho walls,' whether they be challenges in our families, careers, or personal growth, we're reminded that God has already given us the victory. The key is to align our actions and words with His promises, even when it doesn't make sense to our natural minds. This message challenges us to step out in radical obedience, speak life over our situations, and claim our God-given conquests. God can make the impossible possible when we trust and follow His instructions, no matter how unconventional they may seem. Victory often comes through unconventional means - not by our own strength, but through unwavering trust in God's promises. This message also encourages us to 'shout' our victory even before we see the walls fall, reminding us that our faith can move mountains and that with God, we

are more than conquerors. Are we ready to shout in faith before we see the walls fall?

Pastor Canady emphasizes the importance of faith, obedience, and confession in overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles. He relates this to the church's "Community of Hope" vision, encouraging believers to trust God's promises and take action even when circumstances appear hopeless. It's time for us to take our cities - not just physical spaces, but the territories of influence and impact God has prepared for us. The sermon underscores that victory is achieved through compliance with God's word, bold confession of His promises, and unwavering faith in His power to conquer.

#### **Chapters**

#### **Chapter 1: The Compliance of Faith**

We learn about the importance of obeying God's commands, even when they don't make sense.

#### **Chapter 2: The Confession of Faith**

We explore the power of speaking God's promises and declaring victory before we see it.

#### **Chapter 3: The Conquest of Faith**

We are encouraged to take possession of God's promises and celebrate victory in advance.

# **Key Points:**

- Compliance of Faith: Obeying God's instructions even when they don't make sense

- Confession of Faith: Declaring God's promises before seeing the results
- Conquest of Faith: Trusting that God fights our battles and delivers victory
- The power of words in shaping reality and aligning with God's will
- The importance of perseverance and obedience in pursuing God-given visions
- Faith as a force that makes the impossible possible
- The need to praise and thank God in advance of seeing results

#### **Scripture Reference:**

- Joshua 6:1-20 (focusing on verses 2, 15-16, and 20)

#### **Stories:**

- The pastor's personal account of walking around the Sears building seven times in obedience to God's instruction
- The establishment of The LIFE Male STEAM Academy despite opposition and skepticism
- The pastor's interaction with Larry Gumberg regarding the school vote and that he was going to see the hand of God work despite the opposition from the school board and superintendent
- Various testimonies of God's faithfulness in the church community, including healing and provision

The sermon weaves these elements together to illustrate how faith, obedience, and bold confession can lead to spiritual victories and the fulfillment of God's promises in the lives of believers and their communities.

# Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

- 1. Joshua 6:15-20 The main text for the sermon
- 2. Matthew 11:12 (alluded to) "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."
- 3. Hebrews 11:6 "Without faith it is impossible to please God"
- 4. James 2:17 "Faith without works is dead"
- 5. Mark 11:22-23 "Have faith in God... say to this mountain"
- 6. Ephesians 5:1 "Be imitators of God"
- 7. Matthew 17:20 "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed"
- 8. John 14:12 "Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing"
- 9. Romans 10:17 "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"
- 10. 2 Corinthians 5:8 (alluded to) "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord"

- 11. John 10:10 (alluded to) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
- 12. Proverbs 18:21 (alluded to) "The tongue has the power of life and death"

# Themes discussed without specific references, but relevant verses:

- 1. Obedience to God: Deuteronomy 11:1, John 14:15
- 2. God's presence: Joshua 1:9, Matthew 28:20
- 3. Speaking faith: Romans 4:17, Mark 11:23
- 4. Victory through faith: 1 John 5:4, 1 Corinthians 15:57
- 5. God fighting our battles: Exodus 14:14, 2 Chronicles 20:15
- 6. Praising God in advance: Psalm 34:1, Philippians 4:6-7

#### **QUOTES:**

Faith without works is dead. It's not enough for you to say, I believe God and then live any way you want to live. If you truly believe God, you will obey God and your faith will put God to work.

The compliance of faith is obeying what God says, then the confession of faith is declaring what God says before you see it. Stop wanting to see it.

Words are containers. They carry faith or they carry fear. And they produce after their own kind.

Faith is just simply ratifying the word of God because God has said so we can say it with confidence.

When you learn how to believe God, God can make a way out of no way.

Don't wait until the walls crumble. Go on and praise God right now. Don't wait until the city is in our hands. Go on and start marching right now. Because the Lord has already given us the city.

We are taking the city. Put word on the street. We taking the city. We're gonna take it for the Kingdom. The Kingdom suffereth violence and the violent take it by force.

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Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the sermon:

**Day 1: The Power of Obedience** 

Reading: Joshua 6:1-20

**Devotional:** 

The story of Jericho teaches us a profound lesson about the power of obedience. God's instructions to Joshua seemed illogical - march around the city, blow trumpets, and shout. Yet, it was through this act of faith and obedience that the walls came tumbling down.

In our lives, God sometimes asks us to do things that don't make sense to our human understanding. It might be forgiving someone who hurt us, giving when we feel we don't have enough, or stepping out in faith when we can't see the outcome. Today, reflect on areas where God might be calling you to obey, even when it doesn't make sense. Remember, our obedience is not about understanding everything, but about trusting the One who does.

**Prayer:** Lord, give me the courage to obey You, even when I don't understand. Help me to trust in Your perfect plan.

Day 2: Speaking Faith into Existence

**Reading: Mark 11:22-24** 

#### **Devotional:**

Our words have power. In today's reading, Jesus teaches us about the power of faith-filled words. Just as God spoke the world into existence, we too can speak life and faith into our situations.

The sermon reminds us that "words are containers" - they either carry faith or fear. What kind of words are you speaking over your life, your

family, your circumstances? Are they words of fear and doubt, or words of faith and hope? Today, practice speaking God's promises over your life. Declare His goodness, even if you can't see it yet. Remember, faith is "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

**Prayer:** Father, help me to align my words with Your truth. May my speech be filled with faith, not fear.

Day 3: The Presence of God in Our Battles

Reading: Exodus 33:14-16

#### **Devotional:**

In the conquest of Jericho, the Ark of the Covenant - representing God's presence - went before the people. This reminds us that in all our battles, God's presence goes before us.

Moses understood the importance of God's presence when he said, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." Today, reflect on the battles you're facing. Are you trying to fight them in your own strength, or are you relying on God's presence? Take time to invite God's presence into every area of your life - your work, your relationships, your struggles. Remember, with God's presence, we can face any challenge.

**Prayer:** Lord, I invite Your presence into every area of my life. Go

before me in all my battles.

Day 4: Taking the City for God's Kingdom

**Reading: Matthew 6:9-13** 

**Devotional:** 

The sermon speaks about "taking the city" for God's kingdom. This echoes Jesus' prayer, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." As believers, we're called to be agents of God's

Kingdom in our communities.

What does it look like to bring God's Kingdom to your "city"? It might mean showing kindness to a neighbor, standing for justice in your workplace, or volunteering at a local charity. Today, think about one practical way you can demonstrate God's love and bring a piece of His Kingdom to your sphere of influence.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to be an ambassador of Your Kingdom today.

Use me to bring Your love and light to my community.

**Day 5: Shouting Before the Walls Fall** 

Reading: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

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**Devotional:** 

In the battle of Jericho, the people shouted before the walls fell. Similarly, in today's reading, Jehoshaphat and his army praised God before seeing their victory. This teaches us a powerful lesson about faith and praise.

Often, we wait to praise God until after we see the victory. But true faith praises God in advance, believing that He will come through. What "walls" are you facing today? What victory are you waiting for? Instead of waiting until the battle is over, choose to praise God now. Let your praise be an act of faith, declaring God's victory even before you see it.

**Prayer:** God, I choose to praise You now, before I see the victory. I trust in Your faithfulness and Your power to overcome every obstacle in my life.

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Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: "Taking the City"

# **Opening Prayer**

**Key Scripture: Joshua 6:15-20** 

#### **Main Points:**

- 1. The Compliance of Faith
- 2. The Confession of Faith
- 3. The Conquest of Faith

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What does it mean to have "compliance of faith"? How did Joshua and the Israelites demonstrate this at Jericho?
- 2. The pastor emphasizes obeying God even when it doesn't make sense. Can you share a time when you had to trust God's instructions despite not understanding them fully?
- 3. How does our confession (what we say) impact our faith? Why is it important to speak God's promises over our lives?
- 4. The sermon mentions "faith-filled words" vs. "fear-filled words." How can we be more intentional about using faith-filled language in our daily lives?

- 5. What are some "walls" in your life or our community that seem impossible to overcome? How can we apply the lessons from Jericho to these situations?
- 6. The pastor talks about the "Community of Hope" vision. What role do you think each of us plays in bringing hope and transformation to our city?

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- Obedience to God's Word is crucial, even when it doesn't make logical sense.
- Our words have power speaking God's promises aligns us with His will.
- Faith isn't just about believing, but also about taking action and "conquering" in God's name.
- God fights our battles when we trust and obey Him.

#### **Practical Applications:**

- 1. This week, identify one area where you need to trust God more. Write down a Bible verse that speaks to that situation and confess it daily.
- 2. As a group, brainstorm ways you can contribute to the "Community of Hope" vision in your neighborhood or city.

- 3. Practice replacing negative, fear-based statements with faith-filled declarations based on God's word.
- 4. Commit to taking one step of obedience in an area where God has been prompting you, even if it doesn't make complete sense right now.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Thank God for His faithfulness and ask for the courage to trust and obey Him, even when facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

#### **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. How can we apply the concept of 'compliance of faith' in our daily lives, especially when God's instructions seem illogical or challenging?
- 2. In what ways might our 'confession of faith' impact our ability to overcome obstacles, both personal and communal?
- 3. How does the story of Jericho challenge our understanding of spiritual warfare and God's methods of achieving victory?
- 4. What 'walls' in our lives or communities might God be calling us to march around in faith?

- 5. How can we cultivate a spirit of obedience like Joshua's, even when we don't fully understand God's plan?
- 6. In what ways does the Community of Hope vision parallel the Israelites' conquest of Jericho, and what lessons can we draw from this comparison?
- 7. How might our words and confessions shape our reality, as suggested by the sermon's emphasis on 'faith-filled words'?
- 8. What role does communal faith and action play in achieving God's promises, as demonstrated in the Jericho story?
- 9. How can we balance patience and persistence in waiting for God's timing while actively pursuing His promises?
- 10. In what ways can we 'take the city' for God's kingdom in our own contexts, and what might that look like practically?

Just because you don't see the way doesn't mean there is no way. We live by faith not by sight