

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
DR. AARON L. CHAPMAN, PASTOR
23455 W. NINE MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN
PHONE: (248) 353-0675
WEBSITE: www.newhope-mbc.org

2025 ANNUAL THEME: “HOPE IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTY”

BIBLE STUDY May Theme: Trusting God

Family (Joshua 6:15-17)
May 28, 2025

Topics

- Scripture Reference
- Reflection Questions
- Important Emphasis
- Key Terms
- Outline
- Introduction
- Background and Context
- Exploring The Text
- Check For Understanding
- Life Application

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE (Joshua 6:15-17 KJV)

¹⁵ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. ¹⁶ And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city. ¹⁷ And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- A. Briefly describe a time you doubted a family leader’s plan but following it led to a good result.

- B. How does the act of obedience within a family unit contribute to its overall strength and unity?

- C. In what ways can family members support each other in being obedient to shared goals and values?

Family members can support each other in being obedient to shared goals and values by—

IMPORTANT EMPHASIS

Joshua 6:15-17

Hollering and Hiding

This story in Joshua 6 doesn't have just one impeccable leader but two. The initial main character in the Biblical Text is Joshua. The supporting character in this text is Rahab. As we examine these three verses it is very profound how there are two leaders at work in the purpose of God.

Joshua is recorded here giving directives that were put in place by God. They follow the command by shouting or hollering on the seventh day. Prior to this shout they were commissioned to have a silent strolling reception. Both are important here for leadership under Joshua. He expresses the priority of seasonal silence and then there is seasonal shouting. Both are very necessary.

Joshua 6:15 and 6:16 Focus on the following

Dawning- The fresh urgency of the day. **Mark 1:35-38**

Discipline- They were consistent and had done this marching for consecutive days

Declaration- They unto the Lord for giving them the victory. The shout is not an empty emotive expression.

Then there is another view granted to us in **Joshua 6:17**. The lens of the camera shifts over to Rahab.

There are some questions given rise concerning the actions of Rahab we should ponder.

**How do we fit into God's plan?
(Instead of) How does God fit into our plans**

Eligibility to Change- Rahab made an invaluable decision. She was known as a harlot in the social sector of Jericho but now she is known as a hero in scripture.

Environment- The entire fate of this house was altered by this decision. **Joshua 24:15**

Escape- Rahab assisted others in an unpopular situation to fulfill their destiny.

There are wonderful principles that we can learn from both leaders in this upcoming series I invite you to open up your mind and heart to the mysterious ways of God and how he blesses us in the process.

The Plans of God Executed

Joshua Chapter six possesses an intriguing story of obedience that yields irregular results. This Narrative or Episodic encounter is Famous and Familiar to those who study scripture and beyond. There are Fundamentals that are imprinted in these words that challenge our level of *trust, faithfulness* and *obedience* unto God.

Two Major Themes

- Israel's obedient performance of ritual commands
- Deliverance of Rehab and her family

They face Jericho's impregnability, with what Yahweh's oracle assurance, also Yahweh gives the instructions for the city's capture.

Jericho's walls, like the Jordan, represent a boundary which will be dismantled in a spectacular manner. The Wondrous collapse of the walls confirms that YHWH's will indeed fight for Israel.

Victory has been Verified

The land of Jericho has been handed over to them and pre-packaged by God.

Joshua is the appointed leader of Israel whom God provides the instructions. For the Family of God!

The Lord shows Joshua- Joshua 6:2

The Lord strategy for Joshua- Joshua 6:3

The Lord authorized a shout by Joshua and company- Joshua 6:5

The mission was very detailed that the Lord sent them to accomplish in Jericho. The Lord in Joshua 6 is meticulous. This is reminiscent to the activity in Genesis 6:14-22 with Noah and the Ark. The Lord is always interested in our involvement in a Process.

The Season of Silence

The instruction from Joshua was for them to be quiet. But while they were quiet, yet this spoke volumes concerning their obedience as the Family of God

Creators Presence- Joshua 6:7, Psalms 145:18

Creatively Persistent- Philippians 3:14

Crumbling that is Profound- Joshua 6:16 & 20

The Ritual ceremony overcomes the walls of Jericho

The preponderance of sevens in the narrative recalls the seven days of creation and seems to imply that this is the creation of a new order in the land. Hence the description of the destruction of Jericho portrays the city as a sacrifice to God a first fruit of the conquest.

KEY TERMS

Accursed
Authority
Blessing
City
Compassed
Covenantal
Dawning
Deliverance
Divine Plans
Divine Intervention
Faith
Family

Harlot
Hidden/Hiding
It came to pass
Jericho
Joshua
Leader
Messengers
Obedience
Priests
Progression
Promises
Rahab

Redemption
Revealed
Seven times
Seventh Day
Six Days
Shout
Spies
The Lord
Transformation
Trumpets
Trust
Walls

OUTLINE

I. Confidence in God's Commands

- A. Trust in the Tactics
- B. Faith in the Face of Fear
- C. Confidence in the Commands

II. Patience in the Process

- A. Patience in Building Relationships
- B. Patience in Personal Growth with God
- C. Patience to Promote Peaceful Problem-Solving

III. Purposeful in Participation

- A. Participation is Relevant
- B. Participation is Promoted
- C. Participation is Bonding

INTRODUCTION

Joshua 6:15-17 highlights the importance of obedience, perseverance, and faith in God's plan and His leaders. The principles outlined in this passage can be applied to various aspects of life:

- **Obedience to Leadership:** Just as the Israelites followed Joshua's leadership, individuals can apply this principle by respecting and adhering to guidance from leaders in various settings, such as workplaces, communities, and families—such as Rahab's.
- **Perseverance in Challenges:** The Israelites' persistence in marching around Jericho teaches the value of perseverance. This can be applied to personal goals, where consistent effort and patience are required to overcome obstacles.
- **Faith in Unseen Outcomes:** Trusting in a plan without immediate results, as the Israelites and Rahab did, encourages faith in processes that may not show immediate success, such as long-term projects or personal development.
- **Unity and Cooperation:** The collective action of the Israelites highlights the importance of unity. This principle can be applied to teamwork, emphasizing collaboration and shared goals in achieving success.
- **Divine Guidance and Trust:** The event underscores the importance of seeking and trusting divine guidance in decision-making, encouraging individuals to rely on their faith or spiritual beliefs in navigating life's challenges.

The **covenantal relationship** in Joshua 6 is a sacred agreement where God promises to guide and bless the Israelites if they remain obedient. This is shown when the Israelites follow God's instructions to march around Jericho, leading to the city's miraculous fall. The event highlights the importance of trust and obedience to God for success and blessings.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Conquest of Canaan in the Book of Joshua is primarily covered in chapters 6 through 12. These chapters detail the various battles and strategies used by the Israelites under Joshua's leadership to capture key cities and territories in Canaan.

The City of Jericho is located in the Jordan Valley, near the Jordan River, and is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. For the Israelites, Jericho's significance lies in its strategic position as the first city they conquered in their campaign to take possession of the Promised Land, Canaan. The miraculous fall of Jericho's walls, as described in Joshua 6, symbolizes divine intervention and the fulfillment of God's promise to the Israelites, reinforcing themes of faith, obedience, and God's guidance in their journey.

Joshua 6:15-17 is part of the narrative describing the fall of Jericho, a key event in the Israelites' conquest of Canaan. These verses detail the actions taken on the seventh day of the siege, where

the Israelites, led by Joshua, marched around the city of Jericho seven times with a shout. This was a departure from the previous six days, during which they circled the city once per day in silence (**Joshua 6:6-14**). The culmination of this ritual, **as instructed by God**, led to the miraculous collapse of Jericho's walls, allowing the Israelites to capture the city. This event underscores themes of obedience, faith, and divine intervention.

Plot Twist – A Second Leader Emerges

In **Joshua 6:17**, Rahab is introduced and subsequently plays a crucial role in the execution of God's plan for His chosen people. Her decision to hide the Israelite messengers demonstrates her faith and alignment with God's purpose. By protecting the spies, she ensures the success of their mission, which ultimately contributes to the Israelites' victory over Jericho. Rahab's actions highlight the theme of **redemption** and **transformation**, as she transitions from being known as a **harlot to a hero** in scripture. Her involvement underscores the idea that anyone, regardless of their past, can be instrumental in fulfilling divine plans through faith and obedience.

EXPLORING THE TEXT

I. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S COMMANDS (Joshua 6:15)

¹⁵ And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

A. Trust in the Tactics

The victory at Jericho was achieved through faith, as demonstrated by the Israelites who trusted in God's power and plans [battle strategies] (Josh. 6:6–16, 20; **Proverbs 3:5-6; Hebrews 11:30; 1 John 5:4**). The **presence of the Lord**, symbolized by the ark, was crucial for success.

And it came to pass. In Joshua Chapter 6, as in other parts of the Bible, this phrase serves as a narrative device to transition between events or to introduce a significant development in the story (Joshua 6:15-16). In the context of this chapter, which describes the fall of Jericho, this phrase helps to emphasize the unfolding of God's plan and the **fulfillment** of His **promises** to the Israelites. It marks the **progression** of events leading to the miraculous victory at Jericho, highlighting the **divine intervention** and the obedience of Joshua and the Israelites to **God's instructions**.

B. Faith in the Face of Fear - Isaiah 41:10

Despite the large number of Israelites, only a select group participated directly, while the rest supported from a distance. Joshua shared God's plan with the priests and soldiers, emphasizing obedience to divine instructions. This event tested the people's faith and patience, teaching them that God's timing is perfect and that victory comes through faith and patience (**Heb. 6:11-12; Isaiah 40:31**). The

conquest of Jericho was a miraculous testament to **the power of faith and obedience to God's leadership**.

On the seventh day. In Joshua 6:15, the significance of the seventh day is that it marks the conclusion of the Israelites' siege of Jericho. According to the biblical narrative, the Israelites, led by Joshua, were instructed by God to march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. This day was significant because it was the day when the walls of Jericho miraculously fell after the Israelites shouted and the priests blew their trumpets, allowing them to capture the city. The seventh day symbolizes completion and divine intervention, emphasizing **the importance of faith and obedience to God's commands**. (Deuteronomy 11:1)

C. **Confidence in the Commands - Psalm 119:105**

The dawning of the day. The act of rising early and following specific instructions demonstrates faith and obedience by showing a willingness to prioritize the given task and trust in the guidance provided. It reflects a commitment to act promptly and adhere to the instructions, indicating a belief in the importance and value of the task at hand. The early morning timing also emphasizes readiness, discipline, and the fulfillment of God's promise, highlighting **the importance of divine timing and faith in God's plan**. (Ecclesiastes 3:7)

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1.

What is the significance of the number seven in Joshua 6:15?
2.

How does the act of rising early and following specific instructions demonstrate faith and obedience in this context?

EXPLORING THE TEXT

II. Patience in the Process - (Joshua 6:16)

¹⁶ And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

Success in families, communities, organizations, and the church requires patience and perseverance. Joshua and the Israelites exemplify the importance of faith and obedience to God's commands. They demonstrated patience in building relationships, personal growth with God, and peaceful problem-solving to fulfill God's plans in His timing.

People and Groups in the Process:

Joshua: As the leader, Joshua communicates God's command to the people, instructing them to shout as a sign of faith and obedience.

The Priests: They play a crucial role by blowing the trumpets, signaling the moment for the Israelites to shout, which is a key part of the divine strategy.

The Israelites: The people collectively follow Joshua's command to shout, demonstrating their faith and unity in God's promise to give them the city.

The Lord: God is the ultimate authority, having given the city to the Israelites, and His presence and promise are central to the event's success.

A. Patience in Building Relationships –

Patience is reflected in the Israelites' obedience and trust in the divine plan. They wait for the right moment to act [to SHOUT], as instructed by Joshua, demonstrating their faith and unity (**Ephesians 4:2**). Joshua had earlier instructed the Israelites to wait in silence for six days as the priests and the warriors marched around Jericho.

The Israelites' SHOUTING at the appointed time symbolized unity, faith, and obedience. This strengthened their relationships with God and each other through divine timing and leadership. It also represents the people's trust in the instructions given to them by their leader, Joshua. This demonstrates their willingness to follow commands even when the outcome is uncertain.

B. Patience in Personal Growth with God--

Patience helps Joshua lead wisely, strengthens the priests' focus, and unites the Israelites in faith. It inspires trust in God's timing and deepens spiritual understanding (**James 1:4**).

- C. **Patience to Promote Peaceful Problem-Solving –**
Patience aids in peaceful problem-solving by fostering thoughtful communication (**Proverbs 15:18**). For Joshua, it ensures clear communication of God's commands. The Priests use patience for precise timing with trumpets. Among the Israelites, it builds trust and unity. Recognizing the Lord's timing helps maintain focus on divine promises.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

3. What is the significance of the Israelites SHOUTING at a specified time in the context of this passage (Joshua 6:16)?

4. How does Joshua's command to SHOUT reflect his leadership and trust in God's promise?

EXPLORING THE TEXT

III. PURPOSEFUL IN PARTICIPATION – 1 Corinthians 12:27

¹⁷ And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

A. **Participation is Relevant - Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25**

And the city shall be accursed. In Joshua 6:17, the phrase "the city shall be accursed" refers to the concept of "*herem*," a Hebrew term meaning something devoted to destruction or set apart for God. In this context, it means that Jericho and all its contents were to be completely destroyed as an offering to God, signifying total dedication to Him. This act was meant to demonstrate obedience to God's command and to prevent the Israelites from being influenced by the city's idolatrous practices. The only exception was Rahab and her family, who were spared due to her faith and assistance to the Israelite spies.

Rahab the harlot and her household are spared during the conquest of Jericho because she hid the messengers sent by Joshua. Her actions demonstrate faith and obedience, aligning with God's plan to deliver Jericho into the hands of the Israelites. The messengers play a crucial role by gathering intelligence and ensuring Rahab's safety, while the inhabitants of the city face destruction as part of God's judgment.

The sparing of Rahab and her family demonstrates God's justice and mercy by-- Highlighting His (God's) willingness to reward faith and righteousness, even among those outside the chosen people. It also underscores the idea that God's justice is not limited by nationality or past actions, but is accessible to all who demonstrate genuine faith and repentance.

B. Participation is Promoted

In Joshua 6:17, Rahab the harlot is spared along with her family because she hid the messengers sent by Joshua. This verse highlights her protection and promotion due to her actions, while the rest of the city is devoted to destruction. This distinction elevates Rahab and the messengers, contrasting them with the inhabitants of the city who face judgment.

Rahab's participation in the Israelites' takeover of Jericho is significant for several reasons:

Faith and Obedience: Rahab demonstrated remarkable **faith and obedience** by hiding the Israelite spies, aligning herself with God's plan despite the risks involved. Her actions showed trust in the God of Israel and a willingness to support His people.

Redemption and Transformation: Rahab's story is a powerful example of redemption. Known as a harlot, she transformed into a hero in the biblical narrative, illustrating that anyone, regardless of their past, can play a crucial role in God's plans through faith and obedience.

Preservation and Legacy: Rahab and her family were spared during Jericho's destruction, highlighting the theme of divine justice and mercy. Her inclusion in the lineage of Jesus, as mentioned in the New Testament, underscores her lasting legacy and the impact of her faith on future generations—most significantly, her inclusion in the genealogy of Jesus (**Matthew 1:5**).

Symbol of Inclusion: Rahab's story symbolizes the **inclusion of Gentiles** into the faith community, foreshadowing the broader reach of **God's covenant** beyond the Israelites. (See **Ruth 1:16-17**)

C. **Participation is Bonding – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

The shared experience of following divine commands and witnessing the outcome served to bond the community in faith and purpose.

In Joshua 6:17, Rahab the harlot is spared along with her family because she hid the messengers sent by Joshua. This act of protection and alliance with the Israelites demonstrates a bond of trust and mutual benefit between Rahab and the messengers. The inhabitants of the city, on the other hand, are set apart for destruction, highlighting the contrast between those who align with the Israelites and those who do not.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

5. How does the sparing of Rahab and her family demonstrate God's justice and mercy? (Joshua 6:17)

6. What lessons can we learn from Rahab's inclusion in the lineage of Jesus?

Life Application

- How can you apply the principle of obedience to divine guidance in your family, personal, and your professional life, even when the outcome is uncertain?
- In what ways can you demonstrate faith and perseverance in challenging situations, drawing inspiration from the story of Joshua and the Israelites, and Rahab at Jericho?

Resources:

Adam Clarke's Commentary

Adult LessonMaker Questions [LOGOS]

BE Strong by Warren Wiersbe [LOGOS]

LOGOS Bible Software