

JERICO AND THE THREE “S” OF JOSHUA

Key verse: Joshua 6: 16

INTRODUCTION

Dear friends, it's a pleasure for me to be here with you for this meditation time.

The central theme of the Communication Department is “the collaboration”

How to reach and respect this collaboration even we face the complexities of this world?

And even when we meet particular challenges compared with our local context?

How, you, Responsible of Communication in different stages of the church, could keep in mind this spirit of convergence through your department?

The modern technology gives us different tools of communication...tell some of them!

But there is this paradox which says that the communication becomes more and more rare (illustration: this image on face book where a couple is on bed and a tablet in their hands and are connected on face book).

When I think about our theme “Collaboration”, the latch comes in my mind is to go the same goal which is the church mission—stay focus on our raison for being as a church.

And to keep this spirit of collaboration, though the world moves in a phenomenal speed, I want to share with you this morning the Joshua's 3 S as he did with the Jericho's wall.

How did Joshua do to make that the Israelian people had this collaboration in spite of their big number?

JERICO'S CONTEXT

The old town of Jericho was a well-constructed town, a fortified city. From a military point of view, it is really impenetrable.

The fortified city of Jericho was like a physical and psychological obstacle between the people of Israel and the God' promise land. Before he could go far in Canaan, the fortified town of Jericho should be down first.

This old city which was between Israel and the victory is an image of these things which are anchored and rooted in our lives and which prevent us to realize our mission.

It represents the things that prevent us to go deep in our relationship with God, to keep this collaboration.

THE 3 S

I. THE SUPREMACY OF DIVINE (Joshua 5:13-19)

A. There is a supreme person

This person that Joshua meets out of the Jericho's wall presented himself as "The commander of the army of the Lord." It is nothing but the Lord Jesus Christ's apparition himself. Joshua has come face to face with Jesus Christ!

"This word revealed to the Israelian leader the identity of the mysterious stranger, whose no one else but the son of God." Patriarchs and prophets p 488.

B. There is a supreme position

Identifying oneself as "The commander of the army of the Lord" involved that he is always the victorious.

He is whom walks in victory even before the battles has won. He is whom has the control of all situations.

He reminds to Joshua who is the one who really fights in the battle!

C. There is a supreme power

In front of this big challenge, Joshua totally surrenders himself to the eternal of the armies. He recognizes that the Lord's power is what they need and he only trusts in the plans knowing that it is the best for him and the people of Israel.

What a lesson for us leaders!

We have to learn that our success and our victory will never be a matter of our own power or ability.

God wants to remind us that He is there to take over in the battle!

Unless we reach the level where we recognize his highness in all things, there will never be victory in the fortress of our life which maintain us far from this collaboration.

II. THE SUBMISSION OF HUMAN

The second "S", an important stage in the way of victory and the spiritual collaborations about the fortress of life, requires the trust in the Lord.

There are three areas in which Joshua showed absolute submission. This should be our case too.

A. Submission to the promises of God – verses 1-2

Before Joshua went to fight against the town of Jericho; the Lord promises to give Israel the victory was reminded to him.

There are promises of the past (Joshua 2:9) and there are promises of the present (Joshua 6:2).

God has always the intention to give to Israel the victory in this situation.

B. Submission to God's plan – verses 3-5a

At the first sight, God's plan for Israel's victory seems really strange. These fortified cities like Jericho, which are built on the hill, were habitually conquered many months of laying siege.

Cities like Jericho were not normally conquered by military power nor by silent armies walking during seven days.

They were conquered by the time, when the persons in the wall are deadly hungry.

That is a lesson for our leaders!

To assign to God's plan and let Jesus live through you= to enjoy his victory--
Galates 2:20

C. Submission to the God's power – verse 5b

Israel is on the point to learn that the victory is in the Lord and no in themselves.

They are at the point to participate to the strange victory in the history.
For them, the victory would come not in the experimentation but as a result of just trusting God.

If you live dear leader according to the way of God, you will be able to advance more.

He is the perfect lawyer. He is the perfect atonement.
The best thing to do is to rest in the accomplished work of Jesus.

III. THE SUCCESS PROMISED (Joshua 6:6-21)

These verses tell the exciting story of victory that Israel has won to Jericho.
Imagine what would these persons in the town would have in mind!
The people of Israel had received the accomplishment of the Lord's promise for him.

A. The success implies determination- verses 6-15

They have just followed the way of God.

When walk in the way of God, there will always be victory!

We don't need a new bible or a new service's type.

We just need to walk patiently, systematically and humbly with God in the convergence while acting alike his plan.

The obtention of the victory is God's matter; the obedience of Him is ours!

He will give grace for a daily walk.

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

B. The success implies commitment – verses 16-20

Israel walked around the city during 6 days. After doing this, what had happened to the town's walls? Nothing!

But, when Israel had walked around this wall the 7th day, the wall had fall down!

Israel had continued in his commitment until they passed the area of his own power to the area of the God's power!

This is for them the time to shout before the wall fall down!

They praise God for the victory of faith, even before this would be visible to their eyes!

That is “Faith “— Heb 11:1. this is the kind of faith that honors God!

CONCLUSION

Dear leader, the fact to be there is not at all a chance or a coincidence!

Collaboration – that is the watchword!

Collaboration in the church mission / collaboration in your leadership according to the 3 “S” of Joshua before the wall of Jericho:

- Supremacy of the divine
- Submission of the human
- Success promised

Are you ready to collaborate in the direction according God saying to him this morning like Joshua: “Oh Lord, I can't do anything, I just want to surrender on your feet my sword and let you lead this battle for and with me because I can't by myself!”

Let us pray!

Communication Departement
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