

IT'S SHOUTING TIME

By

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Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations in this booklet are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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Scripture Readings: Joshua 5 vs 13-15, ch 6 vs 1-20

“On the seventh day you are to walk around the city seven times with the priests blowing the trumpets. Then when they give one loud long blast, all the people are to give a mighty shout and the walls of the city will fall down. Then move in upon the city from every direction”. The seventh time around as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people “shout for the Lord has given you the city”. When the people heard the sound of the horns they shouted as loud as they could”.

“Suddenly the walls of Jericho collapsed and the Israelites charged straight into the city from every side and they captured it”. **It's shouting time**. The secret was in the shout. The right shout at the right time for the right reason from the right people brought victory. The right shout! There are people who stand in football stadiums or arenas, they will stand and watch this or that, they will stand in discos and pubs and shout their heads off but when God's people come into God's house they don't. Get a life. “Shout unto God with a voice of triumph”. That is what the bible says. The secret was in the shout. The right shout at the right time for the right reason will bring the walls of your Jericho down.

Jericho was an intimidating fortress, an impregnable fortification, an unconquerable stronghold of the enemy that seemed impossible to overcome. The Israelites would face their first battle in the land of Canaan, the land flowing with milk and honey. But between them and the honey. Them and the milk, them and the blessing of God was a fortress, a stronghold that the enemy did not want to give up. There are things in your life that the enemy does not want you to give up. Even when you try on your own strength you can't do it. You need divine intervention. You need a divine word from God. God sent Joshua a visitation from himself. He stood as the captain as the Lord of hosts. Joshua, he must have been from Belfast because when he lifted his eyes he seen a soldier drawn with a sword. Joshua drew his sword and he said “whose side are you on?” He was ready to take him on. Then the Lord spoke. As soon as the words came out of his mouth Joshua fell on his face and said “Oh Lord”.

Have you ever been in the middle of a problem and people are all around you but can do nothing to help you. God gave them the land by promise but they had to go and possess it. Do you know there were seven Canaanite nations and Israel defeated the seven of them. God gives you perfect victory when you do what He asks you to do. If you try it your own way you will fall apart. When you do it God's way the enemy falls apart.

The first was the impossible stronghold of Jericho. If Egypt is a type of the world and the temptation of sin, if the war with Amalek is a type of deliverance from the flesh or victory over your passions, then Jericho is a type of the strongholds of satan. “We wrestle not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers, rulers in the darkness of this world”. Jericho was to be the first battle in the new land of Canaan. It is a type of victory standing up for God as a new Christian. He has lifted you out, he has given you self denial. You have crucified your flesh but there is still a stronghold and the stronghold is the power of satan that he has on your life. You have got to get the victory. The first victory is vital. The rest will follow suit. The rest will give you courage. The new believers first confrontation with the stronghold of satan. **To conqueror they had to do something, they had to obey.**

You can't live in disobedience and walk in victory. It is impossible. You can't do what you like and expect God to turn up when you want Him. God doesn't turn up at the flick of your fingers. God is God and we need Him. If we need Him then there is special requirements and special conditions to fit the bill. When we walk in obedience then

obedience brings victory. They obeyed the word of the Lord but before they could enjoy the blessing of the Lord they had to deal with the curse they were facing.

Joshua said about Jericho “whoever builds it will be cursed”. Jericho is a type of curse in your Christian life. Jericho the city of the curse. Defeat Jericho and you can walk in the blessing of God. Deal with Jericho and the devil’s stronghold on your life will be broken. Deal with Jericho and you will taste victory and learn to live by faith and not in fear. Obedience and not oppression.

“At the dawn of the seventh day they started out again but this time they went around the city not once but seven times. The seventh time as the priest blew the long loud trumpet blast, Joshua yelled to the people “shout for the Lord has given us the city”. So when the people heard the trumpet blast they shouted as loud as they could. And suddenly”. Do you know what I would love you to do? Go through the bible and look at God’s “suddenly’s”. That is a sermon in itself. “Suddenly a man’s hand appeared and wrote on the wall of Belshazaar’s palace – Mene Mene Tekel Parsin – thou art weighed in the balance and are found wanting. Tonight your kingdom will be taken from you”. The hand of judgment. Suddenly on the day of Pentecost they were all with one accord in one place and “suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled the house where they were sitting and there appeared on each of them cloven tongues of fire. They began to speak with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance”. That is the suddenly of God’s empowerment in your life. If you want to live for God right, get filled with the Holy Spirit. Fall in love with Christ, be passionate about the things of God.

Suddenly the walls of Jericho came down. They gave a shout, they shouted with all they could and the walls collapsed. **It’s shouting time**. The world watches and listens for a shout from the church but the church is so backslidden she is muzzled with fear. Where is the church when they are passing 24 hour licensing laws? Where is the shout? We don’t want it. Scotland for Jesus. Where is the shout when they are taking abortions every day on the black market? Wee children are being murdered and murderers are being set free. Where is the shout for the unborn child? Where is the shout against the gays? They are taking Ministers to court because Ministers wont marry them. They are looking for Ministers to marry them so that they can live in immorality and all sorts of perversion. Where is the shout of the church? We don’t want this. Why? Because if God doesn’t judge the homosexuality in our nation He will have to apologise to Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement. He burned the twin cities because of the great wickedness of homosexuality and lesbianism. Where is the shout? It’s shouting time. Where is the shout in your home?

The same man who was commanded to shout said “Choose you this day whom ye shall serve. As for me and my house we shall serve the Lord”. It’s shouting time. Its time the church began to speak. If you are a Christian are you concerned about this land? The bible says “if my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways”. One of the greatest wicked ways is not opening your mouth when you should. It is not standing up and being counted when you ought to. Will the real church of Jesus Christ stand up and be counted today? That is the shout today. We need to hear it all across the land of Britain, Scotland, England Wales and Northern Ireland.

When you shout it has to come from **your** voice. No-one else can shout for you, you have to shout for yourself. “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”.

- **Shouting time. When you shout it puts your faith on record.** You are saying “I am doing the shouting because I want Him. I want victory over my Jericho. Lord give me victory over drug addiction. Give me victory over alcoholism”. My dad was carried up the stairs Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There was a lot of

hardship in my family at times. When I look back through the hardship and the struggle and disappointment and despair that God heard the cry of the heart. My mother cried in her bedroom for my daddy and for my sister and my elder brother and for me who was in trouble with the police. God heard my mum's cry. Her shout was her desperation. When we cry out to God in faith your faith is put on record. That means you can't hide any more because you have opened your mouth. There are a lot of people who have opened their mouth but they haven't backed it up with their actions. Don't be talking the talk unless you are willing to walk the walk.

- **Secondly, it confuses your enemy.** The people of Jericho couldn't understand it. They were petrified of the children of Israel. Why? Because they saw the river Jordan parted by God and they saw the children of Israel walking and it put fear in every Canaanite nation and they knew the Lord was with them. So Jericho was defeated even before they started walking round. Do you know something, the people in your work know God is in this house. They know God is moving. They know God is helping, God is delivering and He is rescuing and they know that whenever you come in and say you have got saved, your faith is on record and they are frightened of you. The children of Israel confused their enemy.
- **Finally your shout will precede your victory.** "As they shouted for all they were worth". Two thousand years later as Jesus walked through the city of the curse He heard a blind man shouting - blind Bartimaeus. Do you know what they said? "Tell him to shut up". They tried to muzzle blind Bartimaeus but the more they tried to shut him up the more Bartimaeus started to shout. Jesus stopped and turned and that day the blind man received sight and followed Jesus in the way. His shout became his salvation. He didn't stop shouting until he got the Lord's attention. When he got the Lord's attention the rest would come. He got victory over blindness and peer pressure and he followed Jesus for the rest of his days.

It's shouting time. The shout of victory requires your co-operation. If you want victory here is what to do. "Put the priests with the horns, put the praise band in front then bring the ark, a symbol of my presence, put it behind the priests, put the armed guard in front and the armed guard behind and then follow them. As they march around the city don't say anything. Your silence is confusing. Your silence is deafening, your silence is threatening and intimidating to the enemy". Walk around it once every day, say nothing disperse and go home. Just let the trumpets blow. Can you see the Jericho people on top of their big fortress looking down wondering "what are they doing, what are they up to, what is God going to do next". Can you see the panic in their faces and in their attitudes and in their actions? On the seventh day it says they rose up early and had a prayer meeting. Anytime you read the verse "they rose up early, he rose up early", it means they got up to pray early and seek God. After seeking God they did the same, the priest with the horns, the ark of the covenant, the guard, the people and they followed him round, no shouting, nothing, no talking. In silence marching round. Not only once, but twice, three times, four times, five times, six times, seven times and on the seventh Joshua said "right, shout with all your might for the Lord has given you the city". They began to shout where they were standing. As they began to shout to God, shouting in victory in faith believing God the walls began to crack. The walls began to shake. They could hear the screams of the people on top, they could hear the people rushing here and there, they could hear the people crying as the boulders began to fall down. As they began to cry and shout unto the Lord the walls fell and they were able to stand where they were and walk into the city.

Peter and John went to the church to the prayer meeting. When they were going in there was a man sitting who had been there for over 38 years. A lame man asking for money or bread or food. He had sat there all his days. As they were going in Peter put his eyes on him and said "silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee. In the name of

Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk". The mans ankle bones received strength and it says he stood up and he leaped and he jumped and he started praising God. He began to praise the Lord but it was Peter and John's shout of faith that got the man up on his feet. Peter and John were arrested and thrown into prison. They were threatened "don't do anything else in this name of Jesus any more. Don't do a thing, don't preach in His name, don't do any other things in His name". Peter and John stood up and said "no, whether you believe it or not it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man was healed". They threatened them some more then they let them go. It says they went to their own companions. As Peter related what the threats were and all that they said, it says "they lifted up their voices together with one shout". As they began to pray they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and the place began to shake. That is the same power of God 2000 years later.

Obedience even when you don't understand it always brings rewards. Jericho was a symbol of a fortress but by the time God's people began to shout it became a ruin. What is your fortress tonight? What is your big battle? What is the stronghold in your life that is keeping you back from fulfilling your destiny? Do you know that God says "for you know the plans I have for you, plans for good and not for evil. Plans that you may prosper". God wants you to do well in your life but there is a stronghold. You are afraid of what people will say. You are afraid of failure. You are afraid of this or that. You are afraid you will never make it. "I would love to be a Christian but I don't think I can keep it". That is a stronghold of unbelief. I challenge you tonight if your stronghold is divorce say "Lord give me a second chance".

What is your stronghold tonight? "Ah disappointment, betrayal, I've been let down, disillusioned, full of anger, full of bitterness. People have left me on the lurch". Hold it, you are letting it become a stronghold. Come to it in the name of the Lord and say "this night is my shout of victory. In the name of Jesus Christ I receive the victory". God sent His Son into the world to bring down the strongholds of satan and on the day that Jesus died on the cross satan thought he had won. Every demon in hell gloated and revelled. There was a party in hell when Jesus died but three days later hell trembled. Why? Because the shout of the Lord and the voice of the archangel and the stone was rolled away and heaven rejoiced. "He is risen". It is the same power that broke down Jericho, the same power that shook the upper room was the same power that rose God's Son from the dead. It is shouting time.

Its time for you to shout for yourself, it is time for you to call in faith. Put your faith on record tonight, pray the sinners prayer. Pray the prayer of restoration, of forgiveness, of complete surrender "Lord I don't know how you are going to do it but I am trusting you. Take my life".

Lets bow in prayer.