
Joshua: God's People in God's Land
 "The Foolishly Weak Strength of God"
 Joshua 6

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

"How strange it is that a widow with only a handful of meal should be commanded to offer hospitality! It is once again the impossible that is set before us. It would have been a dull commonplace to have fed the prophet from the overflowing larder of the rich man's palace. But to work from an almost empty cupboard – that is the surprising way of the LORD! He delights to hang great weights on apparently slender wires, to have great events turn on seeming trifles, and to make poverty the minister of the unsearchable riches of Christ." - J.H. Jowett

"The feel of faith is not strength, but dependent weakness." - Rev. Joe Novenson

"In the Christian life, weakness is the way. The way of weakness has two aspects. One is that the watching world sees you as weak in the sense of being limited and inadequate. The second aspect is that you yourself are very conscious of being limited and inadequate." - J.I. Packer

"Nothing makes us more merciful and patient with the faults of others than seeing our own." - Francois Fenelon

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?
- Describe what you think it would have been like to be in the procession around Jericho.
 - What do you think it would have been like to observe the procession as a citizen of Jericho within the walls?
- Why do you think that God stipulated this method for the first "battle" of the conquest?
- What habit/action of the Christian life seems particularly foolish to you?
 - From the perspective of your non-believing friends, what's weird about your faith and life as a believer?
 - Have you ever been mocked or laughed at for what seems like folly as a believer?
- Why is the Cross the most heightened foolishness for Christians?
 - How does it communicate the strength and power and wisdom of God?
- How does the image of the priests blowing the *shofar* horns continually as they marched land with you?
 - Why do you think the *shofar's* announcement of liberty for captives fell on deaf ears?
- What's the difference between trembling at the sovereignty of God and bowing the knee in submission before the Sovereign?
 - Why do you think Rahab and the rest of Jericho were staring at the same set of facts yet reacted so differently?
- Strength and weakness, folly and wisdom can be really abstract concepts. What foolish-looking, weak-looking activity is God calling you to engage so that you can experience his power and his wisdom?