

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God Is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 15

Lesson Title: God's Victory Breaks Down Walls

Take Home Point: God has a victory plan to break down the walls, which keep him away.

Warm-Up:

In 1989, history was made when the Berlin Wall was torn down and the city of Berlin was reunited. Since 1961, the Wall had stood as a nearly impenetrable barrier, separating families and friends. The interesting thing about the Wall is that it was meant to keep people in, much more than to keep people out. It was built by an oppressive government, in an era of mistrust and hatred, and was an unmistakable display of separation and isolation. The Wall was finally demolished by crowds of people, who wanted to restore relationships and bring freedom to those who had been walled in for so many years.

Read: Joshua 5:13 – 6:27, 1 Corinthians 15:57

Observation (What happened?):

Who gave Joshua the orders for how to take the city of Jericho?

What did Israel do to the entire city and populace (with the exception of Rahab and her family) in obedience to the Lord?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What might the Israelites have thought, when they were told what to do to conquer Jericho?

Why do you think the Lord only wanted the people to march and shout, in order to defeat a powerful, walled city?

Insight:

Do you notice anything about the Israelites' actions in this account that is different from previous events you read? There is no record of their grumbling! One might expect whining about having to walk all day, or grumbling that this was no kind of way to defeat a city. But, no. Why do you think that was so? I suspect it's because they had just experienced the miracle of God allowing them to cross the Jordan on dry ground. What did the Israelites pass as they crossed the Jordan? The Ark of the Covenant, showing God's immediate presence with them. What did they follow as they marched around the city? The Ark of the Covenant. It seems in this case, they kept their eyes on God and not on their circumstances, with the result of a great victory. We can also remember God's acts on our behalf, and keep our eyes on him with the same results.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Take some time to think and pray about any "walls" you might have put up against God. How can you tear them down?

What steps can you take to be vigilant against any walls you might be tempted to build?