

## No Wall Too Tall

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At Jericho the walls were fortified, the people were ferocious, but God's people were favored. You are favored too!

*Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. <sup>2</sup> Then the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men.*

*<sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." (Josh 6-NIV)*

A homeless man was living on the streets of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. He fled police who were bringing him news of a \$6 million dollar inheritance that was his. Thomas Martinez, age 67, apparently thought the police were chasing him, to arrest him on alcohol and drug charges. You see Thomas had struggled to stay clean and often slipped into the dark world of drugs and alcohol addiction.

Then Thomas Martinez disappeared without a trace. This caused the Bolivia authorities to place a want add in the local newspaper in 2000 indicating a "new millionaire paradoxically did not know of his fortune awaiting."

The inheritance came from Thomas Martinez ex-wife, Ines Gajardo Olivares, who she herself had inherited the money from family. She did not hold a grudge for leaving years before.

God has an inheritance for you. God does not randomly select Promised Land lottery winners; **it is for all believers in Christ**. You can start today, possessing your Promised Land and obtaining your inheritance.

Go get your inheritance, and don't let your past mistakes or current struggles tell you anything otherwise.

The book of Joshua tells us God gave to an untested and unworthy people his very best real estate on the planet.

*I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. (Josh 1:3-NIV)*

*<sup>43</sup> So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. <sup>44</sup> The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn*

to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. <sup>45</sup> Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled. (Josh 6-NIV)

As we will see shortly, God has a provision for his people even when they wander in the wilderness. Also, God has an inheritance when his people possess what is rightfully theirs- Promised Land living!

Before I show you, what is standing in the way of your inheritance-Jericho, let me remind you of how God takes care of his people, even if like Thomas Martinez you are unwilling or unable to possess your inheritance.

As we have seen, the nation of Israel took the long route to their inheritance. The story of Israel leaving Egypt is **Israel's signature story**. It defined God's people as a free people. Even the anniversary of their departure from Egypt was a day celebrated like no other. Passover. In fact, before Joshua and Gods people took down the walls of Jericho they celebrated the Passover.

*On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated Passover. (Josh 5:10-NIV)*

While God delivered his people in a single day, they would not possess their inheritance for another 40 years. The route from Egypt -Mt Sinai to the Promised Land was supposed to take 11 days. But it took them 14,589 days longer than the itinerary should have.

If you want to change your story, he can **redeem** your loss, **recycle** your mistake, and **rewrite** your pain. God can give you a seat upgrade. And he has already paid for your seat.

What an upgrade for Israel, they moved from burial plots to the Promised Land.

If you are ready for a story upgrade, quit telling yourself the wrong story. God wants to give you more than just provision (take care of your needs), he wants to give you a Promised Land. God's provision is no small miracle. and *in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.*" (Duet 1:31-NIV)

The 40-year wilderness wandering by Moses and the Israelites must be one of the biggest miracles in the Bible, yet we take it for granted. Think about the metrics of their dire situation:

**FOOD:** God's people had to be fed daily. Feeding 3 to 3 1/2 million people and large flocks and herds of animals would require a lot of food. According to the quartermaster general

in the army, it is reported that Moses would have to have 1,500 tons of food each day. It would take two freight trains, each a mile long, to feed that many people – every day!

**COOKING:** They would also need firewood to cook the food. This would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day.

**WATER:** A person's water requirements would have been 19 liters [20 quarts approximately] per day in 43 degrees Centigrade or 108 degrees Fahrenheit. Therefore, it is thought that the Israelites would have needed up to 11,000,000 gallons of water each day just to drink, wash themselves and clean dishes, etc. This would be equivalent of a freight train of tank cars, 1,800 miles long just to bring water. They had no lakes, and only a few wells. How did they get that much water in a land where water is scarce? God provided their need.

**Aren't you glad...**

God is the God of second chances.

Your **explanation** of what God is doing in your life is more important than your **experiences**.

Your **stories** are more important than your **situation**.

It is time to possess your inheritance and tell yourself a different story.

No longer an addict on the run, but a wealthy ex-spouse in treatment and getting clean so you can enjoy your \$6 million dollars left by your ex-spouse. **Time to flip the script.**

What is standing in your way? Jericho. Jericho must fall if you are to gain your inheritance.

And today you are in for something really special. My friend Jeremy Stein is here to help us understand and appreciate our theme:

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I have asked Jeremy to come and explain the miracle of the Jericho walls falling as told by a person who studies about the Promised Land on a daily basis and takes teams to Israel.

TRANSITION

So, to add to Jeremy's amazing presentation, I know 3 characteristics of the walls that keep us from our Promised Land inheritance.

Jericho mocks you and tells you to take your dreams back across the Jordan River.

Failure to let go of your past, in my mind is the #1 reason, Christ followers fail to gain their inheritance.

Jericho shouts at you, this stronghold has a hold of you!

Jericho does not have a hold of your life. Hang ups and habits do not have the last word. Today's pain is not tomorrow's pain. Today's problems are not tomorrow's problems.

Don't incarcerate yourself by self-labeling. Stop that! When you fail to accept who you are in Christ, you create alliances with the devil.

And these alliances grant the evil one access to your spirit, soul, and body. It is not God's will that you live a defeated, miserable, unhappy and worn torn life.

Ignore Jericho's old voices and start making new choices. Psalm 16:6, the lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good inheritance.

Start living out of your inheritance, not your inadequacy.

Start living out of your favor, and not your failure.

Start living out of your blessing, and not your busted, disgusted and never trusted self!

Remember, God already has given you your inheritance! Now, go possess it.

*<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Eph 1:3-NIV)*

Jericho crumbles and the enemy stumbles when the Ark of the Covenant is carried into battle.

When God said, "follow the ark," he was really saying, "follow me!" Not the soldiers. Not Joshua. Not the engineers and their special plans or special forces and their equipment. Not your pastor. Not your spouse.

When it came to see the walls come down, God's plan was simple: trust me. Follow me. Read my word. Lift up my praise. Speak to me in prayer. The people did. And after 6 days, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the walls came down and the people went in... *then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.*" (Josh 6-NIV)

The men. The women. The old and young. The believers and doubters. The faithful and those who griped and complained.

For the newly minted nation, their faith rose to Everest like heights. As the walls fell, faith arose.

The Jordan is behind you.

Fallen walls are in front of you.

And an inheritance awaits you!

A new season awaits you!

Declaration: I declare God's blessing over me to take possession. While my past might be painful, my future is prosperous. God's word is true, God will give me every place where I set my foot. So, I will be strong and courageous because I am about to inherit my Promised Land.