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BECAUSE OF YOU

***“Now Jericho was straitly shut up
Because of the Children of Israel:
None went out and none came in.”
Joshua 6:1***

How is it going for you in this economy? How is it going for you at this time in history?
How is it going for you in this in-between place?

What do I mean by this “in-between place”? Well, we are not where we were, but we are not yet where we are going. Change is happening. We are coming to the end of men’s wisdom. Financial systems are failing. Housing markets are failing. Education systems are failing. Surprised? You shouldn’t be. Man has tried to shut God out and then tried to do things in his own knowledge. Foolishness. This is a predictable place. Without God, you know it’s coming to an end. You just don’t know when.

We see the Children of Israel who left Egypt as all their systems were failing. Even the leader and army of Egypt were drowned trying to pursue the Israelites and bring them back into captivity from which God had set them free. Then their own doubts and rebellion led them to wander for 39 years, 11 months and 19 days longer than it should have taken them.

At this place in Joshua 6, the Children of Israel have come out of the wilderness, crossed the Jordan, been circumcised and come to the first place to overcome. I say first place, because our lives are always taking dominion over what the enemy has tried to claim as his own in us.

Imagine coming upon Jericho. With your eyes, you see a walled city and all the doors and windows are shut. No one is coming in and no one is going out. I recently read that Jericho’s walls were so thick you could drive 8 chariots abreast across the top. In the blocks from the walls, archaeologists have found the bones of children. When building the city, the inhabitants of Jericho had sacrificed their children to their god – Molech – to ensure the safety of their city. Tragic.

Because of the Children of Israel, God had gone before them. For 40 years, stories about them had come to Jericho with the travelers. For 40 years, the inhabitants had heard a tale here or there. Were the stories true or myths? Plagues, angels of death, the destruction of Egypt’s leaders and army! The Red Sea parting. A pillar of cloud by day and pillar of cloud by night. What would you think if you had heard these stories and then the very people by which these things happened to appear at your city gates?

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What do the Children of Israel see? An impenetrable city? Did Rahab, the innkeeper, keep the secret of the spies? Is there an army waiting for them on the inside? Arrows? Fireballs? Scalding tar over the walls? We know the outcome – God caused the walls to fall down flat and the victory belonged to His people.

What about you? What Jericho are you looking at? Can you comprehend that God has gone before you? Can you even imagine the fame of what God has done in your life has preceded you and scared the evil one to imagine what God might do for you next?

What fame? Well, I know times I've been in need when God provided. I know times when I've been discouraged, and God encouraged me. I know times when I was fearful and He gave me peace. I know times when I could have thrown in the towel and God sent me times of refreshing. We may have been through the fire, but we're still standing. Like David at Ziklag, we're going to pursue and recover all. No matter what we face, God is with us! That fame.

Because of you, what you are facing may seem closed tight. Because of you, God has gone before you. Because of you, God has a plan for your victory.

What the enemy means for evil, God means for good. It's all because of you!

Rev Deb