

Finish Strong Pt. 4: Don't Stop  
Discussion Notes- November 16th, 2025

1. If you could instantly see results from one thing you're working on, what would it be?

This week we were reminded that God has a plan and purpose for each of us; one that was set in motion long before we were born. Just like Joshua and the Israelites at Jericho, God often promises victory before we ever see it. The challenge is to keep going, even when it feels like nothing is happening. "Don't stop on six!" God may be preparing you in the waiting and testing your trust. When things seem silent, keep showing up, keep praying, and keep believing. The breakthrough comes when we stay faithful to the end.

**Read Joshua 6:2-5**

*"And the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.'"*

God told Joshua that He had already given Jericho into the Israelites' hands, even before the battle began. The plan was unusual: the army was to march silently around the city once a day for six days, led by seven priests carrying trumpets, and then on the seventh day march seven times and blow the trumpets. Though it seemed strange and the walls looked impenetrable, the Israelites obeyed God's instructions exactly. On the seventh day, when they followed His plan, the walls of Jericho fell.

2. What does this story teach us about trusting God's promises before we see results?

**Read Hebrews 10:35-36**

*"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."*

The original audience in Hebrews was facing pressure, discouragement, and seasons where it felt easier to give up than continue in faith. They were urged to hold steady because God is faithful on the other side of their perseverance. Just like the Israelites at Jericho, who had to keep marching even when nothing changed, we're encouraged to trust that God is working behind the scenes. We finish strong by holding onto confidence in God's character and continuing in obedience until the breakthrough comes.

3. Where do you feel tempted to "throw away your confidence" right now, and what would it look like to hold onto it instead?

Read Psalm 27:13-14

"I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Waiting isn't passive; it's an active posture of faith, strength, and courage. God asks us to wait patiently, trusting that He is at work behind the scenes, preparing us and orchestrating the timing of His promises. Just like the Israelites marched around Jericho for six days before seeing walls fall, we are called to wait faithfully, knowing that God's perfect timing brings victory and fulfillment.

4. Why do you think God often builds our faith through waiting rather than immediate answers, and how have you experienced that personally?

**Read Matthew 5:14-16**

*"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16 reminds us that our good works are meant to shine; not to draw attention to ourselves, but to point people to Jesus. As we pursue the call to Finish Strong, we remember that the new church building isn't ultimately for our comfort or convenience. It's a tool for God's work: a place where many will encounter Christ, where families will be restored, and where future generations will be shaped by the gospel. Finishing strong means giving ourselves fully to what God is building—not just a structure, but a legacy of lives transformed for years to come.

5. What's one obedient step you can take toward finishing strong?

Closing/Prayer:

- Pray for the strength and perseverance to finish strong in every area God has called you.
- Pray for faith and trust during seasons of waiting, believing God is at work behind the scenes.
- Pray that your obedience and efforts would point others to Jesus and impact generations to come.

**Deeper Dive- Joshua And The Walls Of Jericho**

Jericho was a strategically important and heavily fortified city in Canaan, often considered impenetrable due to its massive walls and strong defenses. Its capture was a key step in Israel's conquest of the Promised Land. God's instructions to Joshua and the Israelites were highly unusual—marching silently for six days, then seven times on the seventh day, accompanied by priests with trumpets. This method underscored that victory would come from God's power, not human might. The story also emphasizes patience, endurance, and faith, showing that breakthroughs often require sustained obedience and trust in God's plan, even when it doesn't

make sense by human standards. The fall of Jericho demonstrated God's faithfulness and set the stage for Israel's continued conquest, while teaching timeless lessons about trusting God, obeying His commands, and persevering through periods of waiting.

### **Read Joshua 6:1-5**

*"Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat,<sup>[a]</sup> and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."*

God appears to Joshua and gives him the battle plan for Jericho. He explains that the city is already under His control, but the Israelites must follow His unusual instructions: march silently around the city once each day for six days, led by seven priests carrying trumpets. On the seventh day, they are to march seven times and then blow the trumpets.

### **Read Joshua 6:6-14**

*So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD." And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them. The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout." So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp. Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually. And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.*

Joshua communicates God's instructions to the people, and the Israelites prepare for the march. The priests carry the Ark of the Covenant, and the soldiers line up for the daily processions. The Israelites begin marching around Jericho, demonstrating obedience and faith even when no immediate results are visible.

### **Read Joshua 6:15-20**

*"On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the*

*same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city. And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD." So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city."*

On the seventh day, the Israelites complete seven circuits as commanded. When the priests blow the trumpets and the people shout, the walls of Jericho collapse. The Israelites charge in and take the city, claiming victory as God had promised. This event highlights God's power and the rewards of faithful obedience.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think God chose such an unusual method for the Israelites to conquer Jericho rather than a conventional battle?
2. How might the Israelites' obedience in marching for six days without visible results challenge your own faith in God's timing?
3. What lessons from Jericho can we apply to "waiting seasons" or long-term goals in our personal lives or church mission?

### **Finish Strong Campaign Snapshot**

**Theme:** Finish Strong — For Pittsburgh. For the Next Generation. For Christ.

**Goal:** Raise **\$3 million over 3 years**, above and beyond regular giving.

**Theme Verse:**

John 9:4 (ESV) — "We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day..."

### **Project 6:33 — Pray First**

- We are asking everyone to **seek God first** during this season.
- **Based on** Matthew 6:33 — "Seek first the kingdom of God..."
- **Set an alarm for 6:33 PM** daily.
- When it goes off: **Pause. Pray for the church. Pray for wisdom. Pray for faith.**