

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua and the Israelites crossed over the Jordan to conquer their enemies and reclaim the Promised Land with God's help. The first enemies they encountered were the inhabitants of the walled-in city of Jericho. It wouldn't be an easy victory.

The Lord sent the "commander of the army of the LORD" to Joshua, who told him how to conquer Jericho (Joshua 5:14). The Lord told Joshua,

You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; and on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times. . . . Then all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat. (6:3–5)

For six days, they marched around Jericho as God had commanded them.

But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or let your voice be heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout." . . . On the seventh day . . . [they] marched around the city in the same manner seven times. . . . And at the seventh time, . . . Joshua said to the people, "Shout; for the LORD has given you the city." . . . So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown . . . and the wall fell down flat. . . . Then they utterly destroyed all in the city. (6:10, 15–16, 20–21)

Our spiritual enemies often can appear to be stronger than us, much like the walls of Jericho may have appeared to the Israelites. But recall who was part of the silent conquering of Jericho. It was not only the "men of war" but also "seven priests" and God's presence in the Ark (6:4)! This serves as a reminder to us that we need the graces of the sacraments given by our priests. We also *need* to spend silent time in prayer in God's presence, just as the Israelites marched in silence before the Ark. These are the keys to conquering our enemies so that they "[fall] down flat" like the walls of Jericho (6:20).



Ancient ruins of the walls of Jericho

Journal Reflection

What spiritual enemies do you need God's help to conquer in your life? Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.