

Joshua 6:10

Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

Marching around the walls of Jericho. I think we are all familiar with the story of how God told Joshua to have the men of Israel march around the walls of Jericho once each day for six days, and on the seventh day they were to march around the walls seven times. Then the priests would blow the trumpets, and Joshua would tell them to **"Shout!"** then they were to shout, and the walls of Jericho would come falling down, which they did.

But did you notice the instructions that God had given Joshua to give to the people?

† *"You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!'"*

Not one word was to be spoken while they marched around the wall.

With that in mind, have you ever wondered how long it took to march around the wall? I found it took between 30-45 minutes to march around the wall once each day. So for 30-45 minutes each day, they could not say one word as they walked around the walls of Jericho, and on the seventh day it took them around 4-6 hours to walk around the walls of Jericho seven times, and they couldn't say a word during that time either.

To march around a wall which was extremely thick. How thick? Well in "Halley's Bible Handbook" it states that there were two walls, the inner wall was 12 feet thick and the outer wall was 6 feet thick, and they were 15 feet apart and both were 30 feet high. So to have these two walls come falling down after a week of marching around them would be an impossible task to do, apart from God.

But why were they to keep silent? I mean if you are marching right next to your buddy, wouldn't you want to talk to him while you are? But God said, no way, not one word is to be spoken. Think about that for a minute. Moses, who had spoken with God Face to face and was leading you for 40 years through the desert, is now dead. Now Moses' assistant, Joshua, is in charge, and what's one of the first thing he tells you to do as he is leading you into the very first battle under his command.

Uh, guys, God says we are to march around the walls of Jericho and say nothing, once a day for six days. Then on the seventh day we are to march around it seven times then the walls will fall down after we shout.

Some of them may have been thinking, “*Yea Right Joshua, I think not.*” Well, with that attitude, or way of thinking, they could have been talking to other guys as they were marching around the wall and the people would have started to get discouraged. Kind of like the old game we played in school called telephone, where someone tells one person something, then that person tells the next and so on, and by the time it gets to the tenth person down the line what started out with “*Billy’s mom is going to take us all to get ice cream*” ends up being “*Billy’s mom is going to take us all out and get us killed if we scream.*” The conversation had gotten so messed up that it had nothing to do with getting ice cream. Yet that’s how things go when people start talking and spreading rumors or discouraging words. So, what started out great, turns into a fiasco just because of a misunderstanding or not listening or even anger or fear. So I believe that’s why they were not to speak.

With that in mind, we all have social media accounts that we use, be it Facebook, or Twitter or whatever. But with that way of communication, things get posted and said that are true; but there are also those things that are down right, dead wrong lies, and then there are the half truths and so on. If you think about it, it’s a very dangerous tool that everyone has free access to. With it, people can build up or tear down others. We have even heard stories on the news of kids or even adults who have committed suicide because of what others have said about them on social media.

James speaks of such things (Even though social media was not available 2000 years ago)

† **James 3:3-6 (NLT2)** *We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.*

We associate these verses with how we talk to someone. Yet it’s not the actually talking, but the words that are spoken that hurts others. So it does not always have to be a spoken word, but it could very well be a written word that you have posted about someone or a business or an actor, musician, coworker and so on. I have even seen people post downright filthy disgusting language about things that should never ever be spoken about in church. Then a few posts later they post something spiritual or even a bible verse.

Here’s a thought; Maybe one reason you are not winning your spiritual battles is that you are not only fighting against the enemy, but you are fighting alongside with the enemy when you do these things? Jesus even addresses this:

† **Matthew 12:33-35** *Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*

But the choice is yours, because eventually you will end up choosing a side, either with the enemy, or with the Lord. And if you say you're with the Lord, then stop supporting the enemy.

† **1 John 2:9-10** *He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.*

† **James 1:7-8** *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

† **Matthew 12:36-37** *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*