

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 march around the walls once each day for six days, then on the seventh day they marched around the walls seven times. Then after they did, they were to shout after the priest blew the trumpets, and the walls 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.

How long did it take to march around the wall? Well, I wasn't sure so I did a search and I found it took between 30-45 minutes to march around the wall. So for 30-45 minutes each day they could not say one word, and on the seventh day it was 4-6 hours that they couldn't say a word while they marched around the walls of Jericho.

But why? 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. But still, why? 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.

So 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 things 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 wall 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.

"Yea Right Joshua, I think not." Some of them may have been thinking. Well, with that way of thinking they could have been talking to other guys as they were marching 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 got so messed up that it had nothing to do with getting ice cream, but that's how things go when people start talking. 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 and some 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 every one has free access to. With it people can build up or tear them down others. We have even heard stories on the news of kids or even adults who have killed themselves 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 this 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 and about things that would 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 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.

† **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.*