
PROMISE LAND

SERIES

You Can't Stay Silent

Part One: The Discipline Before the Sound

Joshua 6:10, 6:16, 6:17–19 NKJV

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SERMON SCRIPTURES

"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."

Joshua 6:10 NKJV

"And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: 'Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!'"

Joshua 6:16 NKJV

"Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

Joshua 6:17–19 NKJV

OPENING SCRIPTURE

"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."

Joshua 6:10 NKJV

INTRODUCTION

Some of us have been quiet for so long that silence has started to feel spiritual, safe, and familiar. But Joshua 6 teaches us that silence was never meant to be the destination. Silence was preparation.

Israel had to be quiet for six days. They had to walk around what God promised them and say nothing. They had to look at walls and keep quiet. They had to see resistance and hold their tongue. They had to obey a strategy that made no sense while their enemies watched from the wall.

And maybe that is where some of us are. You have been circling something God promised you. You have had to stay quiet while people misunderstood you. You have had to hold your tongue when you wanted to explain yourself. You have had to keep walking when you wanted to defend your name.

But the same God who told you to be quiet is the same God who knows when it is time for you to shout.

God sometimes commands silence to discipline the people who will carry the sound. But when He gives the next instruction, the sound we release must come from obedience, not emotion, ego, or personal ambition.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Jericho was not merely a city; it was a fortified obstacle standing at the entrance of promise. Israel had crossed the Jordan, but Jericho represented the first major barrier in Canaan. Fortified cities were built for security and resistance. Their walls represented power, intimidation, military confidence, and human control.

But Joshua 6 does not read like a typical military campaign. There are priests, trumpets, the ark of the covenant, processions, silence, and a commanded shout. This battle looks more like worship than warfare. God was teaching Israel that the land would not be possessed by human strategy alone. The walls would not fall because Israel was louder, stronger, or more skilled. The walls would fall because God was present, God had spoken, and Israel obeyed.

E1 There Is Obedience in Being Quiet

"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." (Joshua 6:10 NKJV)

Before Joshua told them to shout, he first told them not to speak. That means their silence was not accidental. It was assigned. Israel was not quiet because they were afraid. They were not quiet because they had nothing to say. They were not quiet because they lacked courage. They were quiet because God gave an instruction.

First, silence protected them from contaminating the atmosphere with unbelief. Israel had a history of talking themselves out of trust. In the wilderness, their mouths often became the birthplace of murmuring, complaining, fear, and rebellion. Before God gave them a new land, He gave them a new discipline.

Sometimes God silences you because your old language cannot survive in your new season.

Second, silence kept them from explaining what God had not asked them to explain. Imagine walking around Jericho while people are watching from the wall, with no visible battle plan, no obvious military strategy, and no natural explanation. Human nature would want to explain, defend, or respond. But God did not call them to explain the strategy. He called them to obey it.

God does not owe people an explanation for what He instructed you to obey.

Third, silence trained them to move without needing immediate validation. For six days, nothing seemed to change. The walls did not crack. The city did not surrender. The people did not see visible progress. Yet they had to keep walking. This is where many believers struggle. We can obey when we see results, but God sometimes asks us to obey when the wall still looks the same.

APPLICATION

There are times when God will tell you to be quiet. Not because you are wrong. Not because you are weak. Not because you do not have a side. Not because you could not prove your point. But because your assignment is too important to be reduced to an argument.

Some of us want to tell our side, but God is saying, keep walking. Some of us want to defend our name, but God is saying, keep marching. Some of us want to respond to what they said, but God is saying, do not let your mouth sabotage what I am building.

Echo Church, there will be seasons where we have to build quietly, serve quietly, pray quietly, prepare quietly, and obey quietly. Not because nothing is happening, but because God is forming the kind of people who can handle what He is about to release.

Sometimes God will make you be quiet around the wall because He is teaching you that the wall does not fall by your explanation; it falls by your obedience.

E2 There Is a Moment When Silence Must Become Sound

“And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: ‘Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!’” (Joshua 6:16 NKJV)

The command changes in verse 16. For six days, silence was obedience. But on the seventh day, shouting became obedience. This teaches us that yesterday's instruction cannot automatically become today's obedience. If God told you to be silent yesterday, be silent. But when God tells you to shout today, you cannot hide behind what He told you yesterday.

Notice the wording. Joshua does not say, shout so the LORD will give you the city. He says, shout, for the LORD has given you the city. The shout was not an attempt to get victory. The shout was a response to victory already declared. Israel was not shouting from uncertainty. They were shouting from revelation. They were not shouting because the wall had fallen yet. They were shouting because God had already spoken.

In the ancient world, the fall of a fortified city usually required military pressure, siege tactics, starvation, or force. But Jericho is presented differently. The priests blow trumpets. The people shout. The wall falls. The text is making a theological claim: Jericho did not fall because Israel mastered warfare. Jericho fell because Israel obeyed divine instruction. The shout was not magic. The shout was not manipulation. The shout was not hype. The shout was covenant agreement.

APPLICATION

There comes a moment when God says, now open your mouth. Not to complain. Not to explain. Not to attack. Not to defend ego. But to agree with what Heaven has already announced. Some believers are still quiet because silence has become comfortable. You have been in survival mode so long that you do not know how to release faith anymore. You learned how to be quiet, but now God is teaching you how to declare.

You cannot stay silent when God has given you a word. You cannot stay silent when God has brought you through. You cannot stay silent when God has already declared the victory. You cannot stay silent when your sound is connected to the next moment.

Echo Church, there is a sound we are called to release in Fayetteville and beyond. Not a sound of performance. Not a sound of gimmicks. Not a sound of religious entertainment. A sound of faith. A sound of obedience. A sound of worship. A sound of witness. A sound that says, No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

The shout did not create the promise; the shout agreed with the promise.

E3 The Sound Released the Next Moment, But the Moment Was Not About Accumulation

"Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it... But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD." (Joshua 6:17–19 NKJV)

This is where the sermon must slow down. The wall is about to fall, but God gives boundaries around what they can and cannot touch. That means victory was not permission for greed. Israel could enter the city, but they could not take everything in the city. The first city in the land belonged fully to God. Jericho functioned almost like firstfruits. God was teaching Israel that the first victory must be surrendered, not exploited.

The word translated as doomed or accursed is connected to the Hebrew idea of something devoted irrevocably to God. Some things were devoted to destruction. Other things were devoted to sacred use. The silver, gold, bronze, and iron were not for personal enrichment. They were consecrated to the LORD. So the issue is not simply victory. The issue is stewardship after victory. Can you obey God after the wall falls? It is one thing to obey while waiting. It is another thing to obey while winning.

APPLICATION

Many people can pray when the wall is standing, but they lose discipline when the wall falls. They cried out while they were waiting. They worshiped while they were struggling. They obeyed while they were desperate. But when God opened the door, they forgot the door still belonged to Him. This text teaches us that the next moment is not about grabbing everything you can. It is about

honoring God with what He releases. The shout released the next moment, but the next moment came with responsibility.

Echo Church, as God opens doors, gives influence, sends people, releases resources, and expands the assignment, we must remember this is not about accumulation. This is not about building a name for ourselves. This is not about collecting trophies from victories God gave us. This is not about using the promise to feed pride.

The city belongs to the LORD. The silver belongs to the LORD. The gold belongs to the LORD. The platform belongs to the LORD. The influence belongs to the LORD. The people belong to the LORD. The victory belongs to the LORD. We do not shout because we want more stuff. We shout because God has been faithful. We do not possess promise to become arrogant. We possess promise to become responsible.

The wall falling is not your permission to take everything; it is your invitation to honor God with everything.

CLOSING POINT

God may have had you silent, but silence was not punishment. It was preparation. He was teaching you discipline. He was guarding your mouth. He was purifying your motives. He was training your obedience. He was preparing your sound.

But when the moment comes to shout, make sure your sound does not come from pride, revenge, or ambition. Let your sound come from obedience. Because when God gives the city, the victory still belongs to Him.

QUOTE

God will sometimes silence you before He sends you, because the sound that breaks walls must first be formed in obedience.

CROSS REFERENCES

Exodus 14:14 — The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace. The discipline of silence is rooted in trusting God to act on your behalf.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 — A time to keep silence, and a time to speak. There is a divine timing that governs both restraint and release.

Habakkuk 2:3 — The vision is yet for an appointed time. Waiting in silence is not delay; it is alignment with God's timing.

1 Corinthians 4:2 — It is required in stewards that one be found faithful. Victory is not permission for greed but a call to faithful stewardship.