

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 18

QUESTION 1

- a) To shout was to affirm their confidence in God to work on their behalf.
- b) The delay of seven days revealed their faith and obedience; and is celebrated in **Hebrews 11:30**.
- c) It is interesting to note in verse 20 that the people shouted a “*great shout*”. This indicated their expectation that God would act as He had said. It was a step of faith.

QUESTION 2

- a) The idea is of something or someone ‘set apart’ or ‘dedicated’ as an offering or sacrifice to the Lord.
- b) The offering was irrevocable and therefore often associated with being destroyed.
- c) The idea here is the spoils of war offered to a deity. The Israelites were not to possess the spoils for themselves. They belonged to the Lord; either through destruction or being placed in the Lord’s Treasury.
- d) What happens here seems extreme. However, the people of Jericho were not innocent and this was God’s judgement on them. He had indicated the depths of the Canaanite’s (or Amorites) depravity when speaking to Abraham back in **Genesis 15:16**.

QUESTION 3

- a) We see in the battles that follow, that usually the soldiers would share in the spoils of war. This wasn't the case with Jericho. In the first victory in Canaan, Jericho was presented to the Lord as a total offering; the first-fruits of all the victories that would follow in the battles for the land.
- b) There were other practical reasons for what God commanded.
- c) This conquest was not to be simply about plundering a city in order to enrich Israel (see **Deuteronomy 20:16-18**).
- d) There was also the temptation for Israel to covet those things they could accumulate in their victory rather than being devoted to the Lord.

QUESTION 4

- a) The simple answer is found in **Hebrews 11:31**!
- b) God had used Rahab to affirm that He had given the Israelites the land of Canaan; and also that the people of Jericho were afraid (**Joshua 2:9**).
- c) Verses 9-11 of that chapter describe Rahab's faith (note her conclusion *that "He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath"* and her use of the title *"the LORD your God"*).
- d) Rahab had risked her life by hiding the spies and then helping them escape. In return there was an agreement that she and her household would be saved (**Joshua 2:12-14**).
- e) God honours her faith and she is protected.

QUESTION 5

- a) *"What Joshua says in verses 17-19 is more important than Jericho's walls falling down. By such literary style the writer highlights the priority of obedience to Yahweh's commands over victory in itself"* (Dale Ralph Davis).
- b) It is interesting to note that the details of the walls falling down only takes up two verses (v20-21). You would expect a lot more for such a spectacular event.
- c) This again reveals that the writer's priorities are elsewhere; with the faith and obedience of the people.
- d) To see how crucial this was we need only to look at what happens to Achan in Joshua 7 when he disobeys the instructions about the things devoted to God.

QUESTION 6

- a) God promises He will give the victory; the people have to trust completely. Remember that the shout before the walls come down is an expression of their faith and confidence in the Lord.
- b) The fall of Jericho should be a great encouragement to us as God's people to trust His promises and obey His instructions; no matter how impossible the situation appears to be.
- c) God brings the wall down; the people have to go in. Note that the wall falls down flat so that the people can get in more easily.
- d) The people have to obey to the letter. Verse 21 shows that they did obey God when they got into the city.