



The “Give” and “Take” of Grace

Illustrated in the Conquest of Jericho

Joshua 6:1–21

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down **after**
they were encircled for seven days”
(Hebrews 11:30).

“I have given the city...” (6:2)

- According to some theories of grace, and the gifts of that grace, this promise says:
 - You *already* have the city and *can't lose it*.
 - *No condition* could possibly be asked of you, for then this would not be a gift.
- And yet, in the following verses, God gives Joshua specific conditions that **must** be met in order to obtain the city of Jericho.

Instructions

- Use a specific marching order: priests with trumpets before the ark, front guard, rear guard (4, 6–9).
- Complete silence, except for the trumpets (10).
- March around the city once a day for 6 days (3).
- On the 7th day, circle the city 7 times, and when the priests make a *long blast* with the trumpets, everyone shout with a *great shout* (4–5).
- So how did they do?

Faithful Obedience

- When God specifies, the faithful obey specifically.
- God has always required this sort of evidence of faith, and His promises cannot be enjoyed until we show such faith.
- God promised, but the city stood, and it continued to stand through the various “stages” of obedience.
- “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!” (16), and yet...

Key Verse: 6:20

- TOOK the city? “I thought this was a gift of God.”
- So what does this do to man’s theories about grace, and the gifts of that grace?
- They indeed received God’s gift, but only after they specifically and completely obeyed God’s conditions.
- Do we see the “give” and “take” of God’s grace?

Did God Give the City?

- Did the marching, blowing, and shouting bring down that wall?
 - God's power brought down that wall!
- By His power God could put Jericho at the mercy of anyone to whom He saw fit to give it.
 - He saw fit to give it to those who would trust him explicitly—do exactly what He said to do.
 - Joshua and the Israelites had this kind of faith.

Simple Application

- Salvation is a gift of God's grace—made possible by His power, His love, and His plan—a plan centered in the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
- But to whom does God give this gift? To those who believe, repent, confess their faith, and who are baptized in the name of Christ.
 - Does baptism erase sins?
- God is ready to give you salvation, but you must take it (according to His specific instructions).