**Jericho 20 Oct 2019**

Q = Are you living to your full potential ?

I want you to imagine the very best you

* You feel very close to God
* Your attitude is one of thankfulness and you’re praying regularly
* You’re hearing from God clearly about what you should be doing right now at this point of your life
* You’re focussed on who he wants you to bless, what part you have to play in bringing His kingdom on the earth, how you can serve
* And you’re being obedient with what he shows you
* You’re responding to situations as God would want you to,
* you’re spending your money as God would want you to and using what you have to bless others
* you’re relationships are as God would want them to be,
* you know you’re in the job God wants you in right now
* you’re not worried, not stressed, not disappointed, not lonely or lost
* even if your circumstances are difficult, you’re full of faith
* you’re blessed and being a blessing

**Q = Is that where you are?**

If you’re not in that place, can you imagine yourself there?

* being the person that God created you to be?
* doing what God wants you to do?

Take a moment to imagine yourself like that.

Then I’d like you to ask yourself……

**Q = what stands in the way of you being that person and fulfilling everything that God would like to do in you and through you?**

Over the last few weeks we’ve been following the Israelites as they’ve entered the place that God intended for them to possess.

We learnt that coming into that place of destiny and promise, is for everyone (Joshua 4:1)

We learnt that it looks different for different people

* some are settlers
* some are fighters
* some are occupiers

but that God has a place and purpose for each one of us

We learnt that God wants to put things in order in our lives and won’t bring us into all that he has for us, if things are out of order in our lives

We learnt that if we long for ‘the good old days’ the provision of those days has gone and God wants to teach us new ways of doing things as we walk on with him

We learnt that some things aren’t straight forward and we have to learn to navigate the grey areas, by walking in step with the Father

So Gods people

* are where they should be,
* learning new ways of doing what they should be doing,
* they’ve taken time out to put their lives in order (through the act of circumcision)
* and they’re ready to move on with God

but when they look forward, all they can see is the huge fortified city of Jericho standing in their way.

**What I felt God wanted to say to us this morning is this…**

What stands in your way when you look forward to move on with me?

What blocks your path from becoming all that I want you to be?

and looks too big to conquer,

or too frightening to face,

or too overwhelming to overcome?

Read Joshua 5:13 – 15

V 14 “as commander of the Lord’s army, I have now come”

**Q = Do you know God can deliver you from whatever it is that stands in your way?**

Steve and I have plans which we believe are Godly ones and we are trying to walk with God as he leads us step by step. I have shared this here before but around June time, I discovered something which I hadn’t known about. It was a very unjust situation and I went to see a lady in h’west who could change the situation, she was called away that morning and I had to see someone else, who I knew and she could see the injustice but she couldn’t make a decision about it because she was just standing in for the other lady. She got the other lady on the phone and the answer was no, it could not be changed.

But the lady I was with decided to go above her and emailed someone higher up and I had to go away and wait a few days for their response but she said it would be highly unlikely they would say yes.

So big was this thing for me that I told God it was the end of the road for me, there was no way that I could go on leading the church if this situation didn’t change. The next day I got a phone call from the lady I met with saying “Naomi they’ve said yes!”

I’m sorry for the mystery but it was a huge deal for me personally that I’m not ready to share but I couldn’t face going on, if it wasn’t sorted out and God stepped in and took the problem away.

Your Jericho may be

* a habit you can’t shake free from,
* it may be unhealed memories that flood your mind as soon as you set your heart on moving on with God again,
* it may be fear of what someone else will say or do if you try and move forward
* it may be the desire for other things pulls you away
* it may be something totally unrelated to anything I’ve mentioned, but you know it is standing in your way of moving on with God

God can deliver you from whatever it is!

Dave and I had the privilege of praying with someone last week who was delivered of something horrible from their past and they saw what had affected them for years being sent back to hell where it belongs.

God can send the commander of the Lords army to deliver you from whatever stops you moving on.

Read Joshua 5: 14b “Then Joshua….”

Joshua’s response is

1. to fall down and worship God

I know we’re very British and that’s fine but sometimes I wonder if our worship would be more demonstrative, more enthusiastic, more ‘I don’t care what anyone else things, I’m going to worship God because he rescued me’

* if we pursued God more and let him address our fears, anxieties, stresses and issues more often

Joshua’s second response is

1. to ask what it is God wants of him.God wants things dealt with in our lives because he wants us to be able to receive his word to us, his direction and then be able to act on it.

If you feel like you’re not moving forward in your relationship with the Lord or not hearing from him, then ask him to show you what the barrier is that he wants to take away.

Read Joshua 5:15

Being part of the people of God is different from any other group of people on the earth.

1 Peter 2: 9 – 10 says

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God.

I may talk more about Jericho next week, I’m not sure but I want to share another personal thing that happened this week.

Steve and I had a Jericho looming in front of us and without being too dramatic, we knew we were going to have to face it in the next few weeks and it was very upsetting and I think it’s fair to say we were afraid of it.

On Thursday morning this week, we had some news, which was like the walls of our Jericho, just crashed down right in front of us.

The threat is gone, the anxiety has gone. It’s like God has taken out our enemy in one swoop and we can continue moving forward into what he has for us.

I am utterly amazed at what He has done.

So my final thought today is…..

Walking with God is a truly awesome thing, let us not underestimate who our God is

& lets seek to sort whatever prevents us moving on with Him.