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## SERMON NOTES January 16, 2022

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Today's notes also available at [CCPL.life/Connect](http://CCPL.life/Connect)

### Illogical Strategy for the Impossible Joshua 6 Pastor Mike

Introduction; \_\_\_\_\_ Old Testament stories of God's \_\_\_\_\_

*One of the rules for interpreting the Bible;*

*The main question to answer with every passage is \_\_\_\_\_*

*What is the \_\_\_\_\_ of these stories?*

I. Joshua 6 and the \_\_\_\_\_

II. God's totally illogical \_\_\_\_\_

a. Practical \_\_\_\_\_ from God's story

b. Practical \_\_\_\_\_ for us today

1.

2.

III. How God still calls us to \_\_\_\_\_

a. God's illogical strategy for us today is \_\_\_\_\_

b. The most important battles are won by \_\_\_\_\_

c. Prayer is how we \_\_\_\_\_

### Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. Many of us have given up trying to make New Year's resolutions, because we've failed so many times in our attempts to keep them. Should we make resolutions or commitments to pursue our spiritual growth in things like Bible reading and prayer? What's the difference between a New Year's resolution and a commitment to a spiritual discipline?
2. In his message Pastor Mike pointed out that many of the favorite Old Testament stories that we like to tell our children focus on God's miraculously providing for and delivering his people through some totally unexpected means. These include stories like Gideon's victory with only 300 men, Moses raising his hands for victory in Exodus 17, Joshua and the wall of Jericho, and David and Goliath. But while we love these stories that tell of God's power and how he worked in the past, we often struggle to understand what they mean for us today?
  - a. Do you agree that we often struggle to find the practical application of many favorite Bible stories to our lives today? Can you think of any examples where you struggle to understand that practical application of a story to your life today?
  - b. Pastor Mike taught that one of the rules for understanding the Bible is that since it is by nature understandable, practical, and applicable, the main question to answer with every passage is "so what?" What does this mean to my life today? Is this true for every passage in the Bible? Why or why not?
  - c. If this is true, does it mean that if we don't understand the application of a passage to our lives, then we really don't understand the meaning of that passage? Why or why not?
3. This morning's message focused on Joshua 6 and the destruction of the great wall of Jericho, and the illogical call of God for his people to march around the wall for 7 days and then shout for the wall to come down.
  - a. Why did God call his people to do something that seemed so illogical and so disconnected from the problem to accomplish such a great miracle?
  - b. What is the practical application of this passage for you today? What are the great walls you face? How does God call you to do something that seems illogical to be a part of his accomplishing his great miracles?
4. Most Christians *know* that prayer is both important and powerful. We know Jesus' promises, such as "You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it," (John 16:14), and "if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer," (Matthew 21:22), and "I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete" (John 16:23-24). But in spite of what we know about prayer, most Christians, when they are honest, will admit that they pray very little.
  - a. How can we know that prayer is among the most important and impactful thing we can do, and yet in practice we seldom pray?
  - b. Does a lack of pray in our lives reveal that we really don't believe what we claim to know about the importance and power of prayer? Why or why not?
  - c. What (if anything) are you willing to commit to this month, through the week of prayer, or in the coming year to grow your prayer life?