

A town called Jericho; lessons for today?

Now Jericho was shut up from within and from without...

Joshua Ch 6 1-21

- Who do you identify with in this disturbing story? Those within, or those beyond the city's walls?
- Is Joshua a hero or a thug?
- Rahab the harlot will be saved...hypocrisy alive and kicking?
- Does there sometimes come a point when it makes more sense to demolish in order to clear the ground for something better? Was Jericho beyond repair? Is Jericho more than bricks and mortar in this story?
- Are we sometimes tempted to save or hold onto things which far from securing our future, jeopardise it (verse 18). You might note and chuckle that conveniently "gold bronze and iron are useful to the Lord" (verse 19)
- Can we sometimes feel like the people of Jericho, surrounded by sights and sounds that we don't understand, that we fear will be the end of us?
- Are we a barricaded church...shut up from within and from without?



Jericho (/ˈdʒɛrɪkoʊ/; Arabic: أريحا 'Arīḥā [ʔaˈriːħa] ; Hebrew: יְרִיחוֹ Yeriḥō [jɛxiˈχo] is a Palestinian city located near the Jordan River in the West Bank. It is the administrative seat of the Jericho Governorate. In 2007 it had a population of 18,346. The city was occupied by Jordan from 1948 to 1967, and has been held under Israeli occupation since 1967; administrative control was handed over to the Palestinian Authority in 1994. It is believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world.

Copious springs in and around the city attracted human habitation for thousands of years. It is known in Judeo-Christian tradition as the place of the Israelites' return from bondage in Egypt, led by Joshua, the successor to Moses. Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of more than 20 successive settlements in Jericho, the first of which dates back 11,000 years (9000 BCE), almost to the very beginning of the Holocene epoch of the Earth's history

Many years later, passing through, not passing over or passing by

Mark Ch 10 v 35 – Ch 11 v2

- What's going on in the lives of Jesus and his disciples at this point in their journey?
- Did Jesus really notice the blind man; or was Bartimaeus a bit of an unwelcome distraction?
- Why do the disciples still not get it?
- Does faith make us well?
- Are we straightforward enough in our requests to God? Bartimaeus knew exactly what he wanted...and he asked for it! And he got it!
- Sight restored, what does Bartimaeus do next?
- Do our encounters encourage others to follow and join us on *our journey*?
- Can our faith allow us to work miracles?



Emmanuel Café Church Leeds

<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/stories/emmanuel>

OUR JOURNEY and the process of TRANSFORMING

So, some walls need to come down, physical and emotional, spiritual too.

And we need to establish places where we can genuinely encounter people, not just as we pass by on the way to other things

Is it time to make JERICHO part of our thinking and planning at St John's and St Martin's

Café Jericho ...?

At the end of our Bible study and discussion let us take time to pray for the people of modern day Jericho, and the people of modern day Northwood and South Oxhey.