Crazy Faith: Make People Wonder

Faith Forward, Week Four

When you follow Jesus with absolute abandon and believe the very best about God, demonstrating your faith with radical obedience and massive action, God comes through in ways that makes other people wonder what’s so different about you.

Have you ever had a dream that made tons of sense to you, until you started sharing it with someone else? Often, we limit ourselves with the very words we say.

Sometimes, it’s best to simply move and take action instead of reasoning things out.

When we start to reason things out, we often get in trouble because we’re only willing to do what makes sense, what can be done easily, what might cost us the least.

You can walk by reason, or by revelation.

You can walk by faith, or you can walk by sight.

You can focus on what God can do,
Or you can focus on what you cannot do.

Joshua 6:1-21,27 NLT

[1] Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. [2] But the LORD said to Joshua, “I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. [3] You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days.

[4] Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram’s horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. [5] When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams’ horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town.”

[6] So Joshua called together the priests and said, “Take up the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram’s horn.” [7] Then he gave orders to the people: “March around the town, and the armed men will lead the way in front of the Ark of the LORD.”
[8] After Joshua spoke to the people, the seven priests with the rams’ horns started marching in the presence of the LORD, blowing the horns as they marched. And the Ark of the LORD’s Covenant followed behind them. [9] Some of the armed men marched in front of the priests with the horns and some behind the Ark, with the priests continually blowing the horns.

[10] “Do not shout; do not even talk,” Joshua commanded. “Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!” [11] So the Ark of the LORD was carried around the town once that day, and then everyone returned to spend the night in the camp.

[12] Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests again carried the Ark of the LORD. [13] The seven priests with the rams’ horns marched in front of the Ark of the LORD, blowing their horns. Again the armed men marched both in front of the priests with the horns and behind the Ark of the LORD. All this time the priests were blowing their horns.

[14] On the second day they again marched around the town once and returned to the camp. They followed this pattern for six days. [15] On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times.

[16] The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the town! [17] Jericho and everything in it must be completely destroyed as an offering to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and the others in her house will be spared, for she protected our spies.

[18] “Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. [19] Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the LORD and must be brought into his treasury.” [20] When the people heard the sound of the rams’ horns, they shouted as loud as they could.

Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. [21] They completely destroyed everything in it with their swords—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys. [27] So the LORD was with Joshua, and his reputation spread throughout the land.

Remember the last time the children of Israel were at this place? They spoke words of doubt and made plans to rebel against God. As a result, they spent forty years wandering in the wilderness while an entire generation died off.
God wants to spare them from that fate this time, so he gives them a crazy plan. To follow this plan and have success, it's going to take some crazy faith.

**If you want to make the world wonder about you (and about your God)...**

**Eliminate your limiting language of doubt.**

Words are extremely powerful to build up or to tear down our faith. We often raise problems without solutions and give negative labels to situations that don't deserve them. We tend to limit our capacity to handle things as well as our capability to accomplish things by our words, because the labels we apply tend to shape our reality. We place blame. We find excuses. We imagine the worst.

**Walk in faithful obedience when the plan makes no sense.**

When God gives us an instruction, it's time to be quiet and get to work. You don't have to understand the why. You don't need to predict the future. You simply need to obey, one step at a time.

**Elevate your language of praise.**

The trumpets that were blown at the end of the seventh circuit around the city were the same ones used in worship. And the shouts were shouts of praise and victory.

When you learn to walk by faith, you learn to praise God, even in advance of the victory!

*Is there anything about your life that would make the world wonder about your God?*

*Where do you need to take a big, bold, silent step of obedience today?*