

Sermon: “The Power of Silence and Shouting”

1. The Commanded Silence at Jericho

Joshua 6: 9-11

For six days they marched in silence. No complaints. No battle cries. No talking. Silence! A holy hush if you will...

The **power of silence in the Bible** is often connected with wisdom, self-control, trust in God, and reverence. Silence is not just “saying nothing”—it can be a **spiritual discipline** that shows humility, patience, and faith.

Jesus fought the most important Bible on all the pages of the Bible and history and He did so silently:

Isaiah 53:7, Habakkuk 2:20, Psalm 62:5, Lamentations 3:26, Exodus 14:14, Revelation 8:1

Silence is not the absence of worship.

Sometimes **silence is the highest form of worship**.

Today many churches feel uncomfortable with silence. We worry that people will feel awkward. We worry the room will feel empty. So we fill every moment—music, announcements, transitions, more music.

2. Shout to the LORD

Then Joshua declared:

“Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!” (Joshua 6:16)

In the Old Testament the Hebrew words for shouting are **rua** and **teruah**.

- These words describe a **piercing, thunderous cry that “splits the ears.”**

It can mean:

- A **battle cry, a triumph shout, joyful noise of worship, or an alarm or awakening**

Interestingly, the word **teruah** can refer to a **loud blast, battle cry, or jubilant shout**. It is an **overwhelming sound of proclamation**.

In Scripture, shouting is often connected with:

- **Victory, God’s presence, Worship, and Divine intervention**

The Different Shouts in Scripture

1. The Shout of Creation

- Before humanity even existed, there was a shout.
- Job 38 :4-7
- At creation, **angels shouted for joy**. The universe began with the voice of God and a shout of the angels.

2. The Shout of Worship

- The Psalms repeatedly command God's people to shout.
 - Psalm 47:1 says: "Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout unto God with the voice of triumph."
 - Psalm 100:1: "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth."
- Shouting here is an expression of **celebration and recognition of God's kingship**.
- It is the sound of people who know **God has already won**.

3. The Shout of War

- Jericho shows us the **battle shout of faith**. In ancient warfare, armies would shout as they charged.
- But Israel's shout was different. They shouted **after God promised victory**, not before.
- The shout at Jericho was a **faith proclamation that triggered divine action**.

4. The Shout of Deliverance

- Isaiah prophesies that the redeemed will shout for joy.
 - Isaiah 12:4-6 says: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. **5** Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. **6** Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

5. The Shout of Resurrection

- The New Testament also speaks of a shout. Paul writes:
 - "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout." (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
 - History will end the way Jericho fell— **with a shout from heaven**.
 - And when that shout happens:
 - The dead will rise
 - The church will be gathered
 - Christ will be revealed.

Why God commands a shout

1. The Shout Declares Faith

2. The Shout Announces God's Victory

Application:

1. **Get your shout back in worship.**
2. **Get your shout back in prayer.**
3. **Get your shout back in victory.**

IV. The Results of the Shout

The impossible became possible because faith found its voice.

1. **Walls fall when faith shouts.**
2. **Enemies flee when faith shouts.**
3. **God is glorified when faith shouts.**

The shout is not about human strength; it's about divine power. When the walls fall, all glory belongs to the Lord.