

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. MEDITATION

- A. Review your class notes from Tuesday.

- Take some time to think about the main ideas of the lesson. Find the audio message on our website under the Resources tab. (www.DivineDesignDiscipleship.com).
- Which of the scriptures referenced were particularly meaningful to you? Write out those verses below and spend some time studying them this week.

- B. Rewrite your One Thing into a prayer, expressing your heart's desire for God to make this truth become your experience.

- C. Sing about what you're learning. It's helpful in connecting emotionally to the truth.

- III. Listen to the songs from this week's playlist to aid you in taking today's principles from your head to your heart.

This playlist and our master playlist for our "In the Vault" series can be found on our Divine Design Discipleship YouTube channel. (Be sure to subscribe to our channel!) Our 2021 playlist is also available on Spotify. See the handout provided with your notebook for instructions on how to access these resources.

IV. PRINCIPLES

These principles will explore what God says in His Word about living a victorious life in Him. Let's use them to know God more deeply and enrich our Vaults with His truth:

A. PROBLEM

- God has promised to give His people the land, but a big problem stands in their way: Josh 6:1-16 NLT--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. ²But the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. ³You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. ⁴Seven 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. ⁵When 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!"
- The problem was Jericho. It was the gateway to the Promised Land, which pictures the life of freedom and abundant blessing promised to us in Christ: Eph 1:3 NLT--All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.
- A promise, by nature, is something we look forward to in the future. *Why are we surprised when it isn't immediately fulfilled?*
- God frequently asks us to believe what we cannot see! Rom 8:24 JBP--In our moments of impatience let us remember that hope always means waiting for something that we haven't yet got. But if we hope for something we cannot see, then we must settle down to wait for it in patience.
- Problems only remain in our lives until they are no longer useful to God: Ps 119:91b NLT—Everything serves Your plans.
- Jericho was a military stronghold. All of God's children have spiritual strongholds that must be tackled and destroyed: 2 Cor 10:4-5 NLT--We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

- “Strongholds are those things (human reasoning or ideas, values, and designs, etc.) raised up by a satanic world system and by fallen man that oppose the knowledge of God.”(bible.org)
- We all have practical problems that God wants to use for our spiritual progress!
- LISTENING EXERCISE: *Are you facing a Jericho in your life, a problem that is an obstacle to your purpose or God’s promise?*

Lord, what good purposes are You achieving through the presence of this problem?

- Insights:

B. PROCESS

- God has a process for getting us through our problems and to our purpose. His strategies almost always seem alien to us: Rom 11:33-34 JBP--I stand amazed at the unfathomable complexity of God’s wisdom and God’s knowledge. How could man ever understand his reasons for action, or explain his methods of working? For: ‘Who has known the mind of the Lord?’
- Surely the Israelites were puzzled by this odd strategy of walking around the walls. His strange ways are intended to develop heart health in us, to build up our Vaults: Eph 3:16 AMP-- May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened *and* reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality].
- Marching around the city was great exercise for their faith as they waited on God to fulfill His promise: Num 10:9 NLT--When you arrive in your own land and go to war against your enemies who attack you, sound the alarm with the trumpets. Then the Lord your God will remember you and rescue you from your enemies.
- As we wait on the Lord to make good on His promises, let’s remember to focus on His presence with us (the Ark) instead of on the problem (the walls): Ps 89:15 AMP-- Blessed *and* happy are the people who know the joyful sound [of the trumpet’s blast]! They walk, O Lord, in the light *and* favor of Your countenance!
- The instruction to be silent as they marched must have been difficult to obey. Maybe God was facilitating trust by helping them overcome the temptation to complain:
 1. Ps 37:7a--Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret
 2. Ps 65:1 MSG--Silence is praise to you, Zion-dwelling God, and also obedience. You hear the prayer in it all.
 3. Ps 131:1-2 NLT--Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don’t concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. Instead, I have calmed

and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me.

- One predictable thing about God's process for fulfilling His Word to His people – everything He does makes it evident that only He could have pulled it off! Ps 21:13 MSG—Show your strength, God, so no one can miss it. We are out singing the good news!
- The Lord's way is the only way to experience victory in our spiritual battles: Ps 60:11-12 AMP—O give us help against the adversary, for vain (ineffectual and to no purpose) is the help or salvation of man. Through God we shall do valiantly, for He it is Who shall tread down our adversaries.
- Insights:

C. PERSISTENCE

- *Did you notice that Joshua did not share the entire plan with the people?*
- God required them to persist with His plan without seeing any progress along the way. Surely they experienced confusion, frustration and doubt!
- We have the benefit of seeing God fulfill His promise to Joshua. We don't have that luxury of knowing how or when He is going to act in our personal Jerichos.
- If we are going to receive the full benefit of the purpose and promise of God, we need to press on toward the goal despite our feelings:
 1. Phil 3:12-14 MSG—I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

2. Heb 10:35-37 NLT--So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay.
- Persistence in our walk of faith yields some amazing benefits as we wait for God to bring our promises to pass:
 1. Growing Maturity: Eph 4:12-13 AMP—His intention was...that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ *and* the completeness found in Him.
 2. Strength to Strength: Ps 84:7 NIV--They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.
 3. Progressive Freedom: Jn 8:31-32 AMP— If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples. And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.
 4. Glory to Glory: 2 Cor 3:18--But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.
 5. Effectual Prayer Warriors: 1 Chron 4:10--Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep *me* from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.
 6. Security in God: Jer 29:11 EXB--I know what [the plans] I am planning for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you [plans for your peace/security], not plans to hurt you [for your harm]. I will give you hope and a good future.
 - Let's determine to persist in our walk of faith and pursue deeper relationship with God as we wait on Him to act. These seasons can enrich our Vaults like no other: Ps 1: 1-3 AMP--Blessed (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks *and* lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.² But his delight *and* desire are in the law of the Lord, and on His law (the precepts, the instructions, the teachings of God) he habitually meditates (ponders and studies) by day and by night.³ And he shall be like a tree firmly planted [and tended] by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not fade *or* wither; and everything he does shall prosper [and come to maturity].
 - Insights:

II. CONTINUE TO PRACTICE

- Let's stay connected! Share your prayers and praises with your small group and call on your leaders for support and prayer. Be sure to review and make applications to your specific circumstances. We'll begin Spring Semester on January 25th.
- Use "Tools & Techniques: I Feel But God Says" to process your feelings, fears or unbelief. Ask God to address them and begin to replace them with His truth.

- Pray through your emotional obstacles using the series of questions below. Set aside 10 -15 minutes of stillness. Try not to analyze or edit. Go with the flow, writing down the first thing that comes to mind as you open your heart before the Lord:
 - a. *What are the feelings that I am experiencing now? Make a list in your journal.*
 - b. *Of these emotions on my list, which one do You want to speak to now, Lord?*
 - c. *Will You bring to mind a time in my past where I have felt this way before?*
 - d. *What was the message I believed at that time?*
 - e. *Lord, what is the truth about that situation?*
 - f. *Follow up with meditation and worship, rehearsing the truths God has given you until they penetrate into your Vault.*
- Practice biblical meditation using the suggested approach below:
 - Choose a Scripture that you want to make your own, to believe with your whole heart, and deposit in your Vault.
 - Look up your verse in different versions to find the one that best expresses its truth to you. (Use a Bible search engine like biblegateway.com.)
 - Begin your time of meditation, by asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to the wonderful truths in the passage. Pray that He will personalize His word and apply it to your life as you sit before Him.
 - Read through the passage several times, being alert for the insights and wisdom that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.
 - Choose the truth that is most meaningful to you. Now write it down and pray it back to God. Thank Him for what he has shown you.
 - Sit quietly, meditating on this particular truth for a few minutes. If your mind wanders, simply go back to the Scripture and continue to reflect.
 - Continue this practice periodically (daily, weekly) expecting to discover different insights and experience deeper understanding each time. Record your insights in your journal.
- Here are a few Faith Statements targeted to put In The Vault from Joshua 1:1-5:
 - God has a purpose for me even in situations that are uncertain or unstable.
 - The Lord calls me to rise up and move forward into His purposes.
 - His plans for me will always be too big for me to accomplish on my own.
 - When I walk with God, He will deliver me from the obstacles I will surely face.
 - I can count on God's presence at all times and in every situation!
- Generate your own faith statements as you review the material or find other truths that you want to put into your Vault. Revisit them often.
- Pray for greater awareness of God's presence with you throughout your days. Ask the Lord to keep you focused on knowing Him in a relational way.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you recognize what is currently in your Vault. Watch for times when your actions and emotions reveal what you value highly.
- Study "Tools & Techniques: Listening to God" for practical help and Scriptural support in your pursuit of making God's truth your own.
- Refer to the handout "Tools & Techniques: Spiritual Blessings." The truths and biblical references there are part of your inheritance. Target them for your Vault!
- Keep on considering the questions we'll be exploring this year:
 - 1) *At the center of my being, what things do I firmly and completely believe to be true?*
 - 2) *Where is it that I ultimately go to find the security I was created to experience?*
- Keep a record of what you discover in your notebook or spiritual journal. Come back next week ready to share what you experienced!