

THE ROAD TO JERICHO

God gave the children of Israel a specific battle plan for Jericho. However, the general plan wasn't elaborate. It essential was "Conquer." Had the children of Israel waited for the specifics of Jericho four battles earlier, they probably would never have fought the battle. Obedience was the issue. They had followed the general plan and when needed God supplied the specifics.

Moses heard a burning bush. Then we see a confrontation with Pharaoh. Next we find the children of Israel in the wilderness. It is there we find the guidance of the cloud and fire. No cloud...No pillar of fire in Egypt...Just a general command.

The story of Gideon contains this principle. "Gideon collect an army." Gideon obeyed this general command. As Gideon obeyed the general, God got more and more specific. "A smaller army and a battle plan." Gideon's obedience to the general plan, produced the specific.

The General Word was confront the prophets of Baal. Elijah seemed to get the specifics as the story developed. "Build an altar and... yeah soak it with water...ah.... soak it some more...then fire."

The General Word was "I will give Israel a King" from the family of Jesse. Samuel then began the interviews. God did not immediately give the specifics. Samuel had "to run with the general plan" until God specifically said "David."

Jesus walked into a public place then preached the Kingdom. He prayed for those who needed miracles and miracles happened. Sometimes God gave specific details. "Get some dirt, a little spit, and rub it in his eyes." Other times Jesus solely followed the general plan.

In <Matthew 8:5-10> we find the story of the centurion. Jesus was approached. The scenario was consistent with the general plan. So, He declared, "I will go and heal him." Then an interesting thing happened. The centurion acknowledged Jesus' great authority. The plan changed. It became much more specific. Jesus proclaimed, "I can heal him from here."

In the text of <Matthew 15:22-28> we find this principle again. A gentile woman asks for a miracle. Jesus responded that the general plan was for the Jews. She asked for a "crumb" and Jesus said something like "...the general plan is for the Jews, but specifically speaking I like this gentile...."

Don't ignore the general, waiting on the specifics. However, Don't use action as an excuse. Protocol is important i.e. David transporting ark <1 Sam 6:1-7>, The General and specific are both critically important and relevant.

The Amplified Translations words Ephesians 3:5 this way...

This mystery was never disclosed to human beings in past generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Holy Spirit.

The word may have been given earlier, in a more general sense, but never like it was given, specifically, with the apostles and prophets in place associated with the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

With the apostle and prophet functioning together, the atmosphere becomes much more inviting for God to whisper His secrets to our ears. A prophet hears and proclaims when commanded. An apostle then pushes and/or pulls the bride closer to the heart of the bridegroom.

Essentially, the mystery is "...God loves gentiles." This really wasn't a new revelation, but when the apostolic and prophetic are both functioning the revelation becomes clearer and clearer. Compare the Old Testament <Jer 3:17> to Peter's Vision <Acts 10:9-21>.

Therefore, we have to pray for both the prophetic and the apostolic foundation <Eph 2:19-20>. We must take the prophetic words as they come. Pray over them. Tend them. Ask for discernment and understanding <Dan 9:20-23>. And walk by faith.

Application:

As disciple we must learn to...

...trust God - as God gives both the general and the specific

...walk - as God leads

...listen - as God changes from the general to the specific

...obey - as God orders, we follow

...demonstrate the Kingdom - as God orchestrates the opportunity

...learn to be a pioneer - as God leads to uncharted waters