

March 25 Answers

- 1) The conquest of Jericho, the sin of Achan and the destruction of Ai. Joshua was near Jericho, probably wondering how to **besiege** the city, when he looked up and there **Jesus** was standing in front of him! (cf. Josh 5:15). How often have we been **worrying** about what to do when all the time God was right there, ready for battle? When Joshua realized who the man was, he did what we should do when confronted by a Jericho—he **worshiped**. God is more interested in our **praise** than in our battle plan, and we're better off **holding** His hand than running around trying to figure things out on our own. When God told Joshua how to conquer Jericho, he must have felt both relieved and confused. Relieved to have God's direction and confused by a command that made no **military** sense at all! This teaches us that it's more important to **obey** than it is to understand. Victory does not come from our strength or abilities. It comes from walking hand-in-hand with God! Joshua was convinced, but what about the people? To their credit, they obeyed God's command and "by **faith** the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days" (Heb 11:30). Achan took some of the things under the ban, but God said, "**Israel** has sinned...they have both stolen and deceived" (Josh 7:1, 11). When we sin, we affect everyone around us: our family, our friends, our church, our co-workers and our country. "No man is an island, Entire of itself..."