

# Joshua 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

## Analysis

---

Joshua's command 'Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice' imposes disciplined silence on the entire congregation except for the trumpet blasts. The Hebrew *taru'ah* (תָּרוּעָה) means a war cry or shout of triumph—which was to be withheld until the appointed time. This required extraordinary self-control and faith. Natural human instinct during military operations is to shout, to bolster courage, to intimidate enemies. Joshua prohibits this until God's appointed moment. The silence heightened tension and demonstrated that victory belonged to the Lord, not to human enthusiasm or effort. When the shout finally came on the seventh day, it would be a shout of faith responding to God's command, not of presumption. This teaches that spiritual victory requires waiting on God's timing, not presuming on His promises prematurely.

## Historical Context

---

In ancient warfare, armies typically advanced with war cries intended to boost morale and terrify opponents. The Greek war cry (alalagmos), Roman battle cry (barritus), and various cultural shouts were standard military practice. By imposing silence, Joshua created an eerie, ominous atmosphere. Six days of silent circling—only trumpet blasts piercing the quiet—would have been psychologically devastating to Jericho's defenders. The silence also tested Israel's discipline and

unity. Maintaining absolute quiet among thousands of people for six days required remarkable self-control. This discipline prepared them for the climactic seventh day when coordinated obedience would be crucial. The lesson: God's battles require disciplined obedience, not impulsive action.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. What does this imposed silence teach about the relationship between human effort and divine action in spiritual victory?
2. When are you tempted to 'shout' prematurely before God's appointed time?
3. How does learning to wait silently on God's timing develop spiritual maturity and discipline?

