

## Jericho's Walls

Mark 10:46  
Charlie Brackett

Jesus and His apostles continued their journey. Generally, they had been traveling through Judea east of the Jordan River on their way from Galilee to Jerusalem. The Lord had been in Jerusalem before, but this time would prove to be His last visit. A confrontation with Jewish leaders had been gathering steam for several months and would soon reach a fever pitch, which could only be resolved by false charges, mock trials, and the jeers and insults of a murderous mob.

As they traveled they came to Jericho. They must have recently crossed the Jordan River because Jericho lay about five miles west of the Jordan, still seventeen miles east of Jerusalem. We remember Jericho for Joshua's victory there some twelve hundred years before Jesus and His disciples walked these roads. By God's power, Jericho's walls fell, and the city was destroyed. In Christ's time it was a thriving city again receiving many travelers who passed that way on their journey to and from Jerusalem. It was Herod who had rebuilt the city, though on a slightly different site.

Ruins of old Jericho are still visible today. Archaeological evidence verifies that Jericho's walls fell suddenly. Scientific digs prove that they could not have been knocked down by invading outside forces, but fell suddenly and completely such as would be explained by the miraculous power of God as told in Joshua 6.

While Jesus and His disciples passed by the new Jericho, they would have had reason to recall Joshua's conquests and to remember the power of a benevolent God who enables His people to accomplish His will. They must have talked of it and been encouraged. We also, as we remember Jericho, have reason to be lifted up, encouraged to carry the banner of the Savior against the full weight of Satan's onslaught.