



Joshua and Jericho

Joshua 6

"Cody, Cody!" Captain Billy called out as he came around the corner of the crew cabin and walked onto the bow of the Caribbean Queen. **"Ah, there you are, lad. Are you studying that story I told you to read?"** He asked when he saw Cody sitting cross-legged with a Bible in his lap.

Cody looked up and a puzzled look crossed his face. **"Yeah, dude. I just don't get it. I mean, well, Jericho is like this city with like this giant wall around it, right?"** He paused for a second, took a deep breath, and then rushed into what he was thinking. **"So, here's the part I don't get, the people of Israel, right, they're God's people, right? And they've got like this huge army, right? So they could probably like wipe out the whole city of Jericho just with their swords, right? Right! But, instead Joshua has them marchin' around in circles and yelling and junk. I mean, that's no way to win a fight! It's a way cool story, but if Joshua was such a good leader, than why was he making the Israelites march around and shout and do all that silly junk instead of just attacking that wall and knockin' that puppy down?"**

Captain Billy grinned at the long, breathless question and sat down on the deck beside Cody. **"Because the wall was too thick and Israelites didn't have weapons strong enough so God gave Joshua a plan,"** he explained.

Cody frowned. **"What kind of a plan is that? They had a parade and gave a shout out!"**

"Well, they also had trumpets!" the Captain corrected.

Cody shook his head. **"Dude, you can't bust down a wall with a trumpet."**

"You're right...we can't...but God can!" Captain Billy explained.

"But how could God's people be sure God would really do it?" Cody asked.

"Because God had already made them a promise." Captain Billy Ocean took the Bible from Cody and read, **"Then the Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and it's fighting men.'"**

"But, if God is all powerful, why didn't He just fire a lightning bolt at that old wall and blow it to chunks?" Cody argued.

"That ain't the way God works," said Captain Billy with a little chuckle. **"God likes to do things in miraculous ways so that all who see and hear will know that only God himself could have done it."**

Cody looked down and watched a tiny bug crawl by his foot. "Well...I don't know...I'm still havin' a hard time buying this story."

"We all have doubts now and then." Captain Billy replied knowingly. "That's where faith comes in." The Captain thought for a minute and then said, "Sometimes it helps to close your eyes and pretend you are actually there. Then you may understand how the Israelites had faith."

"Cool! Ok, my eyes are closed." Cody replied as he covered his eyes with his hands.

"Ok, imagine you are an Israelite standing outside the city of Jericho. You are looking up at these huge, strong walls. You can't figure out any way your army could ever break through those walls. Then God tells you that He has already given you the city."

"No way!" Cody interrupted. "I'd ask God how He could do that when we haven't even fired a cannon at the wall, yet!"

The Captain continued, "Then, God says to march around the city once a day for seven days and be sure to take the golden Ark with you. The golden Ark is the beautiful traysure chest that carries the Ten Commandments inside."

"Why did they take the Ark?" Cody asked.

"Because it held the greatest traysures of God's people, God's own words." Captain Billy answered.

"So now what did God say to do? March around and have a big old hallelujah parade?" Cody asked, squinting to keep his eyes tightly closed.

"Actually, He told them to march in silence. The Bible says they marched around the city once a day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day."

"But why didn't they say anything?" Cody asked.

"Because Joshua had commanded the people not to raise their voices, and not to say a word until the day he told them to shout." Captain Billy returned to telling Cody what to imagine. "On the seventh day, imagine marching around the city seven times. Joshua commands that as soon as the priest blasts the trumpets, you should shout as loud as you can and the wall will come down."

"Hooray!" Cody shouted as he imagined the trumpet blast, the mighty shout and the huge walls crashing down. Slowly, he opened his eyes again. "Wow, that was whack! Those people behind the wall probably didn't know what was going on when they saw God's people circling their city."

"Aye, they had the fear of God in their hearts." Captain Billy agreed.

"I guess God had a plan after all." Cody said thoughtfully.

"God always has a plan," the captain replied. "And Joshua and the Israelites learned an important lesson: we can always trust the plan that God sends!"

"Dude, I'm going to trust God's plans from now on, even if I don't always understand them." Cody said.

Captain smiled and explained, "That's called having faith!" He patted Cody on the shoulder and the two sat quietly thinking about the story as they watched the sun turn bright orange and deep gold as it dipped below the horizon for the night.