

Life Lesson 41  
*The Fall of Jericho*  
Text: Joshua 8

Introduction

Joshua led the Israelite army toward the city of Jericho. God had commanded them to take over the city, but Joshua must have been wondering just how they were to do it. High walls surrounded the city. It seemed impossible for any army to conquer it. But God never tells us to do anything without giving us the ability to do it. God knew just how to bring victory to His people.

The Story

Joshua looked up and saw a man blocking his path, a man holding a sword! Boldly Joshua strode up to the man.

“Are you for us or for our enemies?” he asked.

“I am Captain of the host of the Lord,” the man answered.

The Captain of the host of the Lord! God, Himself, was the captain of His people. Joshua was standing before God.

Normally no one can see God. A few times in Scripture we read about God taking on the form of a man so that He could talk with His people. Abraham had seen God in this way, and now Joshua met Him.

Quickly Joshua fell on his face and worshiped.

“I am your servant,” Joshua said to God. “What do you want me to do?”

“Take your shoes off,” the Lord replied. “The place you are standing is holy ground.”

Joshua took off his shoes, which was a way of showing reverence.

“I have already given you the victory over the city of Jericho,” the Lord told Joshua.

“Here’s what I want you to do.”

God told Joshua the plans for conquering the city. They weren’t normal battle plans in the least! Joshua trusted God and obeyed the unusual instructions.

The great day arrived and the Israelite army marched to Jericho, but in a way that must have baffled the enemy army. First came a large battalion of soldiers marching silently around the city. Next came seven priests, blowing on rams’ horns. Behind them came the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant that usually stayed in the tabernacle. Following them was another battalion of soldiers.

Silently, except for the trumpets, they marched all around the city and then went back to the camp. They must have really had the army of Jericho wondering what was going on!

The next day they came again. Just as before, they silently marched around the city. The next day they marched again. And again the next. For six days they came and marched around the city and went back to their own camp.

The seventh day came. This time they didn’t go home after one trip around the city. They marched around again and again. Seven times they marched. After the seventh circle had been completed the priests again blew the horns.

“Shout,” Joshua commanded, “For the Lord has given you the city.”

A great roar arose as the entire army began to shout. An answering roar came from the city. The walls were falling! The massive walls that protected the city fell down flat!

The Israelite army stormed into the city and quickly conquered it. They burned down the houses and destroyed everything in the city except for Rahab and the family gathered in her

house. By Joshua's command she and her family were taken to the Israelite camp and lived the rest of their lives with the Israelite people.

### The Life Lesson

Who would have thought that God would give a victory by making walls fall down? Many times we will be in situations that look impossible. We won't be able to understand why God has allowed it, or what good will come of it. Maybe He will tell us to do something that looks downright impossible!

We must remember that God is far greater than we are. We can't even imagine what He has planned. His thoughts are so much higher than our thoughts that we can never figure out what He will do. We just have to trust that He will do what He says in the way He knows is best. Sometimes we may see Him do surprising things like Joshua saw Him do, if we don't worry but confidently obey.

## Review Questions

What made the city of Jericho so hard to conquer?

*The high walls.*

Who was the man with the sword whom Joshua met?

*God*

What did God tell Joshua to do?

*Take off his shoes, because he was on holy ground.*

How many times did the Israelites march around the city each day?

*Once*

How many days did they march around once?

*Six days*

How many times did they march on the seventh day?

*Seven times*

What did they do after they finished the seventh round?

*They shouted*

What happened when they shouted?

*The walls fell down flat.*

Who was saved alive in Jericho?

*Rahab and her family.*