

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6, 11:23

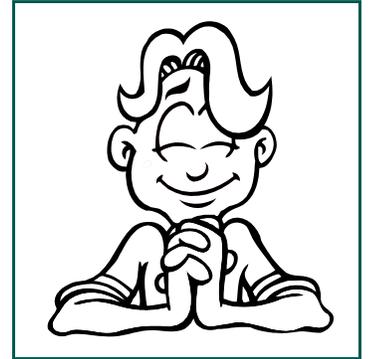
Your birthday is 5 months away.

When you are 48 inches tall you can go on rides at Disney World.

The school bully gets away with taking your lunch.

What do each one of the above situations require on your part?

What makes it easier to deal with the wait involved?



Prayer

Lord God our Creator,

Help us today to listen attentively to Your Word so that we can learn those things that the Children of Israel learned in their battle with the people of Jericho. Make us willing hearers and devoted learners of Your saving message to us. We pray this in Your Name. Amen.

The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 6:1-27

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

{2} And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. {3} "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. {4} "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. {5} "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

{6} Then Joshua the son of Nun

called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." {7} And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

{8} So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. {9} The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. {10} Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I



say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."
{11} So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

{12} And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. {13} Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. {14} And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

{15} But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. {16} And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! {17} "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. {18} "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. {19} "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

Outer Aim - Our all-powerful God used Joshua and the Children of Israel to destroy the wicked city of Jericho.

Inner Aim - In His wisdom and almighty power, God will both care for the God-fearing and punish the ungodly.

{20} So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. {21} And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

{22} But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her." {23} And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

{24} But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. {25} And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

{26} Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

{27} So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

What the Story Tells Us – Put these events from the story in the correct order by using the numbers 1-6.

- ___ The Children of Israel marched around the city without any noise except for the blowing of trumpets by the prophets.
- ___ God told Joshua that He had given Israel the city of Jericho and how Israel should defeat Jericho.
- ___ The Israelites killed the people of the city.
- ___ All the people began to shout.
- ___ The Children of Israel marched around the city 7 times.
- ___ The walls of the city fell down.

Discussion Question: Why did God have the Children of Israel destroy all of the people in the city?

What God Tells Us - True/False- Mark each statement below as True(T)or False(F). Be ready to explain your answer.

- ___ 1. The Children of Israel were not sinful.
- ___ 2. The people of Jericho were sinful.
- ___ 3. All the people of Jericho were destroyed.
- ___ 4. God made the Children of Israel wait for seven days before they defeated Jericho.
- ___ 5. Joshua came up with the plan to defeat Jericho.
- ___ 6. It was God who actually defeated Jericho.
- ___ 7. It was easy to understand God's plan to destroy the walled city of Jericho.
- ___ 8. All of the Children of Israel played a part in the defeat of Jericho.

In the statements above, the odd numbered ones were false. Write answers to the questions below about those false statements.

- 1. What is wrong with saying that anyone is sinless?
- 2. Rahab and her family were spared. Why? Was Rahab sinless?
- 3. What was the difference between Rahab and the rest of the people of Jericho?
- 4. Can we always understand why God does what He does?

5. What should be our understanding when things that happen don't make sense to us?

Passages - Explain what attitude each person or group listed below would have toward the passages which follow and why they would feel that way.

- The people of Jericho ↔ Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalms 127:1 NKJV)
- The Children of Israel ↔ Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalms 127:1 NKJV)
- Rahab ↔ (The Lord) has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. (Psalms 103:10 NKJV)
- Joshua ↔ 'You must not fear them (the enemy), for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.' (Deuteronomy 3:22 NKJV)

Hymn - Stanzas 1 and 4 of Hymn 528 could be sung by both the Children of Israel at Jericho or by us in our life. Read those stanzas and explain what comfort could be taken by both of the groups mentioned.

If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

My Jesus is my Splendor, My Sun, my Light, alone;
Were He not my Defender
Before God's awe-full throne,
I never should find favor
And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
As darkness by the light.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

I am often tempted to put my trust and confidence in myself rather than in You. Remind me often so that I never forget that You are my strength, the only One who can deliver me from my enemies. As You fought for the Children of Israel, fight also for me. Grant that I never forget how You feel about sin and disobedience, and fill me with joy in knowing that You paid for all of my sins on the cross. Give me comfort in knowing that You are always with me and will never leave me. As the Children of Israel could not defeat the city of Jericho without You, so too apart from You I can accomplish no good thing. Strengthen my faith and help me to always trust in You as my God and Savior. In Jesus Name I ask this. Amen.