

Joshua Takes Jericho

(From Joshua 6: 1-20 and confirmation that “God’s ways are not our ways”! It is about trusting God and having faith in him)

Joshua is addressing his men in a camp outside of Jericho. He is confident, forceful and charismatic. You can imagine the feedback and interruptions he’s getting from his audience, who are very sceptical! Joshua gets more and more heated and animated. (His personality and speech was originally based on DI Grim, the man in charge of the CID in the TV comedy “The Thin Blue Line” if any of you remember that; he was always really stressed and harassed, shouted a lot, and seemed in need of some deep breaths and camomile tea – “We haven’t got time for any of that lardi-dardi, namby-pamby, fannying about!”)

Right men! Most of you know me – my name is Joshua, and we are here to take Jericho.

What we need to do first is decide on a plan of attack. I know Jethro here favours a siege, while Isham says a simultaneous attack on all gates is the best way to secure victory.

But our Lord and Master has come up with another plan. And a plan with the Lord’s backing is a guarantee of success. Remember that.

Now gather round. Here we have Jericho with its walls [*gesturing in front, drawing a square with right hand in the air*]; and this is us [*gesturing to self*].

Tomorrow, we are going to march up to the city [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], we’re going to march round the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*]. And then, and then... we’re going to come back here.

I know, I know it sounds weak, but hear me out. I haven’t finished yet.

The day after tomorrow we’re going to march up to the city, [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], we’re going to march around the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*]. And then we’re going to come back here for afternoon tea. All that marching can give you a thirst.

Quiet down! Quiet! Let me tell you about Day 3 of the Lord’s cunning plan of attack.

Day 3: the sun rises on a day that seems like any other day. We get up, we put on our finest armour. And we march up to the city, [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], we march round the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*]. And then, and only then, we march right back here.

No honestly! God’s truth! That’s what he said we’re going to do. Don’t have a go at me, it’s not my idea. It’s his! You want to pick a fight with someone, you pick it with him! Now listen up!

Day 4: the people in Jericho, they want to know what’s going on. They’ve seen us coming three days in a row, but we haven’t attacked. They’re getting edgy, they’re getting irritated. They want to know when the attack’s coming. Well, Day 4...Day 4 it ain’t.

We’re going to march up to that the city, [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], we’re going to march around the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*]. And then we’re going to come right back here. Yah!

You men have fought before, you know what happens when God leads you into battle.

Day 5, Day 5 of our plan to conquer Jericho goes like this: we march up to that the city, [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], we march around the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*], and we march right back here.

Day 6, and we're ready for a fight! Let us at them, Lord! Let us at them! [*shadowboxing, like Scrappy-Doo*] But remember men! The Lord knows best. I'll tell you what we're going to do on Day 6: we're going to march up to that the city, [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], we're going to march around the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*]. And then we're going to come right back here.

But on Day 7 – I tease you not – Jericho will be ours! We're going to get up at daybreak, we're going to march to the city [*forcefully shoot right hand forward*], and we're going to march round the city [*drawing a square with right hand in the air*]. But it doesn't end there, oh no! We are going to march round the city seven times. And on our seventh time round there's going to be one long blast on the trumpet [*put fist up to mouth and make loudest trumpet blast type noise you can!*] and we are all going to yell! AAAHHHH! And the walls of Jericho will fall and the city will be ours!

Victory to the Lord's army!

[*regaining composure*] ...so, what do you think? Come on lads, don't be like that, get back here!