

The Unseen Captain

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Illustration Helps:

- A Large two-edged Sword [or reasonable facsimile]
- Teach in an animated fashion
 - Lay the foundation with the introduction
 - Express the message through the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

Joshua 5:13-15 13And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

14And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my

Lord unto his servant?

15And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

Joshua had already crossed the Jordan River in a miraculous way. The children of Israel had set up an altar in the camp on the Canaan side of the river in the Promised Land in a place they named Gilgal. Joshua was going to check out Jericho, a great walled city. His people had been born in the wilderness and grown up in the wilderness. Now they were about to go take one of the best defended cities in the Promised Land. However, Joshua was not discouraged. God had promised victory and Joshua believed God.

The Message:

He did not know how they would prevail, but he did believe God.

Now we find Joshua approaching the outskirts of Jericho. He is planning and praying about what to do. He knows they can only win if they get direction from God. Then when he looks up he sees a man in front of him with his sword drawn.

[Here I draw out this full sized two-edged Excalibur sword from it's sheath].

Joshua is by himself ! What should he do? With great confidence, he approaches this man, disregarding the sword, and ask him "Whose side are you on?" WOW, the fellow has this sword drawn, wonder if I would have had the nerve to approach him at all, much less ask him straight out , WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON ANYWAY ?

This man with the sword replies: " You are asking the wrong question; I am the captain of the Lord of Hosts. I want to know if you want to be on MY side. I am the captain that brought you out of Egypt and fought for you in the wilderness. If you want victory now in the Promised Land, you need to pay attention and serve under my command."

This man was GOD in the form of a mighty captain in an army. It was the pre-incarnation of Jesus. Angels would never accept worship, but this "man" demanded it. He says that Joshua was on Holy Ground because he was in the presence of God.

WOW ! Joshua wanted direction from God and he finds himself in the presence of God in an unusual place and time. The Bible says, *“Seek the Lord while he may be found.”*

If you want the Lord to direct your path and you believe His Word, you will find Him when you seek Him: And, when you find Him, His sword will be drawn in your defense. Our captain has given us commands.

Joshua 1:9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

1.) Our Captain is a Mighty Captain: *Joshua 4:24 the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty*

If you are living for the Lord, He will fight your fights. Why? They are not really our fights, they are His !

Joshua 2:9-10 that your terror is fallen upon us.....For we have heard how the LORD

Deuteronomy 2:25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven

2.) Our Captain is a Miracle working Captain:

Joshua 3:4-5 4 ...that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore.

5And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

God is anxious to do miracles among us, but we must sanctify ourselves. We have to be focused on what He wants instead of our cheap little desires.

Why set your goals low? Expect great things from God. Sanctifying focuses us on His plan for our lives and clears away the clutter and confusions. We have so many promises from God: don't let sin rob you of miracles.

Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

3.) Our Captain is a Mortifying Captain:

Joshua 5:1 that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more,

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

No one can stand in opposition to God and no one can prevent Him from doing His will. Men of old could not stop the children of Israel from leaving Egypt and they could not stop them from conquering the Promised Land. Mankind and the Devil could not stop Jesus from accomplishing His task on earth. No matter how the lost world wants to deny that Jesus will come again, They will some day find that they were powerless to stop the destruction of this world and the judgment.

Exodus 15:11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD....., fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We should obey our Captain.

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.