

I Did It My Way?

Purpose: to encourage us as believers to do exactly what God tells us to do and not return to the way that we have been accustomed to doing things.

Until 2019, the number one song played at funerals was "My Way" by Frank Sinatra. Why? Because "I did it my way" is the way that many live today and will be remembered.

We are used to doing things our way:

- The way of habit – which means that we often respond to crisis by doing what we always have done, or what we have been taught to do by watching others.
- The way of our emotions – which means that we often respond to difficulties based on feelings of guilt, shame, or even by what we feel others may think of us.
- The way we like it! – When it comes down to it, we often respond to trouble simply by doing whatever we want to do!

God's ways are not our ways:

Isa 55:6 - Seek the LORD while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.

Isa 55:7 - Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the LORD,
And He will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

Isa 55:8 - "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD.

Isa 55:9 - "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

In order for the children of Israel to defeat their enemies, they had to do exactly what God told them to, and not return to the way that they had been accustomed to doing things. Here is a great example of this when they faced their first battle in the promised land at the city of Jericho:

Jos 5:13 - And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

Jos 5:14 - So He said, "No, but *as* Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

Jos 5:15 - Then the Commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy." And Joshua did so.

Notice here that a Man showed up:

- This was the commander of the army of the LORD
- This was God himself: (vs 14,15)
 - He is worshipped
 - He is told to take off his shoes, the same that Moses was told at the burning bush

He gives instructions to Joshua: (6:1-5)

Jos 6:1 - Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

Jos 6:2 - And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, *and* the mighty men of valor.

Jos 6:3 - 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.

Jos 6:4 - 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.

Jos 6:5 - 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."

Joshua follows the instructions given and receives miraculous help!

Jos 6:6 - 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."

Jos 6:7 - 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."

Jos 6:8 - 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.

Jos 6:9 - 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.

Jos 6:10 - 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."

Jos 6:11 - 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.

Jos 6:12 - And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

Jos 6:13 - 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.

Jos 6:14 - And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

Jos 6:15 - 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.

Jos 6:16 - 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!

Jos 6:17 - 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.

Jos 6:18 - 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.

Jos 6:19 - 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."

Jos 6:20 - 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.

Jos 6:21 - 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.

Jos 6:22 - 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."

Jos 6:23 - 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.

Jos 6:24 - 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.

Jos 6:25 - 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.

Jos 6:26 - 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."

Jos 6:27 - So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

To defeat our enemies, we must do exactly what God tells us to do and not return to the way that we have been accustomed to doing things. For example:

I would normally be quick to get angry and open my mouth, but God says:

Jam 1:19 - So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

Jam 1:20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

I would easily give up on doing good, but God says:

Gal 6:7 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 - For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Gal 6:9 - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Gal 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

I would normally cover up my faults, but God says:

Jam 5:16 - Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Conclusion:

It is now time for us to begin to overcome our enemies and take ground. There are people that God wants to save among our families, friends, neighbours and work colleagues. God has been shaping our character and preparing us for battle. Let us commit ourselves to doing exactly what God wants us to do, and not return to doing things the way that we have been accustomed to doing them. Instead of my way, let's do it His way!