

The Stones of Courage inspired by Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

Raymond stood on the edge of the city recreation field, staring at the crowd gathered for the biggest community challenge his town had ever attempted. The abandoned park on the east side of town had become a place of crime, vandalism, and fear. Now, volunteers wanted to reclaim it and transform it into a safe place for families.

But there was a problem.

Several powerful developers opposed the project because they had other plans for the land. Their influence seemed overwhelming. Many volunteers were beginning to lose heart.

Raymond glanced at his friends Flint, Pearl, and April.

"We're outnumbered," Flint admitted. "Maybe we should scale back our plans."

Pearl folded her arms. "Those companies have money, lawyers, and connections. We have a handful of volunteers."

April sighed. "I want to believe we can do this, but it's starting to feel impossible."

Raymond looked at the empty park in the distance. For weeks, the obstacles had grown larger and larger.

That evening, he sat alone on a bench.

"Lord," he whispered, "I don't know how we're supposed to overcome all of this."

As he prayed, a thought settled into his heart.

Don't be afraid because of them... move forward... I'll give you the victory.

The next morning, Raymond gathered his friends.

"I know things look impossible," he began, "but fear isn't going to make our decisions anymore."

Flint raised an eyebrow.

"What changed?"

Raymond smiled.

"I realized we've been focusing on how big the opposition is instead of how faithful God is."

Pearl nodded slowly.

"So what's the plan?"

"We keep going."

April grinned.

"That's it?"

"That's it."



The work began immediately.

Teams cleaned trash from the park.

Others repaired broken fences.

New playground equipment was donated.

Families started showing up to help.

Every day brought another challenge... permits were questioned... supplies ran short... rumors spread that the project would fail.

Yet Raymond refused to retreat.

"One problem at a time," he would tell the volunteers.

When discouragement appeared, he faced it directly.

When rumors spread, he answered them with truth.

When obstacles arose, he found solutions.

Months passed.

What once seemed like an unbeatable mountain of opposition gradually crumbled.

One evening, Flint looked across the nearly completed park and shook his head.

"I remember when I thought we'd never get this far."

Pearl laughed.

"I remember when I almost quit."

April pointed toward children playing on the new basketball court.

"Look at that. That's why we kept fighting."

Raymond smiled but remained thoughtful.

"The battle wasn't just about building a park."

"What do you mean?" Flint asked.

Raymond looked around.

"We had to overcome fear, doubt, and discouragement first."

His friends nodded.

They knew he was right.



Months later, the park officially opened.

Hundreds of families attended the celebration.

Children filled the playground.

Neighbors gathered under newly planted trees.

Community leaders praised the volunteers for their perseverance.

As the crowd celebrated, Raymond stood beside Flint, Pearl, and April.

"This reminds me of something," Pearl said.

"What?" asked April.

"How every challenge looked impossible when we first faced it."

Flint chuckled.

"And now we're standing on the other side of it."

Raymond looked across the park and smiled.

"That's what happens when we trust God and keep moving forward."

The four friends watched as children laughed and families enjoyed the space that had once seemed beyond saving.

Raymond remembered the fear he had felt months earlier. He remembered the opposition, the setbacks, and the uncertainty.

Yet God had been faithful through every step.

Just as Joshua and Israel courageously moved forward against overwhelming enemies and received victory from God, Raymond learned that success comes when fear is replaced with faith, obedience, and perseverance.



The restored park became a living reminder to the entire community that no obstacle is too great when God leads the way.

And whenever people asked Raymond how the impossible had become possible, he always gave the same answer:

"We didn't win because we were the strongest. We won because we trusted the One who is."