

Courageous

Claiming Canaan, Lessons from the Book of Joshua

Lesson 4: Charted (2:1-24)

Not only did the mighty river stand between the Israelites and their territory, but the mighty city of Jericho stood in the way of all that God had promised. A fortress, covering approximately nine acres, with double walls fifteen feet apart, each as thick as fifteen feet, reached toward the heavens forty feet (Deuteronomy 1:28). But this time, no obstacle would keep God's people from obtaining His best.

Little did they know that while their purposes were to view the land (Joshua 2:1), God had a different purpose for this reconnaissance mission. It was not to survey their enemies' strengths and weakness, but to save the ONE among many who sought Jehovah's deliverance. She was His and no wall would keep Him from the object of His desire.

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him... and show him My salvation" (Psalm 91:14-16).

Read Joshua 2:1-11.

1. For what purpose were the two spies sent into the land? How long did they have to accomplish their mission? (1:11)
2. Who learned of their presence? What occurred?
3. What consequences would befall Rahab if she was caught? Why do you think Rahab was willing to do this?
4. Consider *where* the spies ended up. (v.6) Why was this the ideal location to accomplish their objective?

5. Describe the providence of God from beginning to end. Why is this important to you in your present circumstances?

6. How does Psalm 31:19-20 apply? What additional verses speak to you of God as Refuge?

7. According to verses 9-11 of Joshua 2, for what reasons did Rahab choose to place her trust in Israel's God? Why didn't these things motivate her countrymen in the same way?

8. What do her actions reveal about her?

9. How did her actions demonstrate her faith? (Think on Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25.)

10. What does Joshua 2:9-11, reveal about the fallacy of the Israelite's perceptions of the Canaanites forty years ago? What did the Canaanites really think of the Israelites? What do the Canaanites believe about them now?

11. What had God promised then? Reread Exodus 15:14-16; also read Deuteronomy 2:25. If God speaks, do His words remain true?

12. In what ways could Rahab relate to the Israelites in the land of Egypt?

13. To what length is God willing to go to save those who are searching for Him?

14. Does Rahab's occupation—her past and present actions—challenge your ideas about who is worth saving?

15. In what ways did her salvation likely challenge the Israelites? Consider the following New Testament passages: Luke 15:11-32, Luke 18:9-14, and John 8:1-11.

16. Now consider the honor and privilege that would later be bestowed upon Rahab. (Read Matthew 1:5.) In Luke 15, why didn't the brother rejoice with his father and his servants? (vv.28-29) Do you think the Israelites would have entertained similar thoughts? Why or why not?

17. Record Luke 7:47.

Read Joshua 2:12-24.

18. How did the spies promise to protect Rahab?

19. The spies made a verbal agreement with Rahab. Consider the importance individuals place on spoken promises today. Is their unbinding nature a reflection of man's view of God? What else? Explain.

20. How did Rahab's plan match Joshua's timeline for crossing the Jordan?

21. Why might it be difficult for Rahab to convince her family of the impending judgement? Why might it be more difficult to convince them of their salvation?

22. What keeps us from having similar conversations with those we love?

23. The scarlet cord distinguished Rahab and her household from among the Canaanites. According to Exodus 12:13, why would the Israelites easily recognize this "sign of salvation"?

24. How many times would the Israelites see the red rope before Jericho was destroyed? Again, to what length is God willing to go to save those who seek Him?

25. Finally, what affect would the spies' report have had on Joshua and the people?