

TAKE GROUND Part 2 “INVITE”

8 week series looking at the OT book of Joshua

OVERVIEW:

3500 years ago Moses passed the baton of leadership to Joshua

- After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years
- 381 mile journey took 40 years because they disobeyed

NOW - They were ready to move forward into the Promised Land!

- God promised this specific land to Abraham 430 yrs before.

SIMPLE THEME: Trust me & Obey me and THE LAND WILL BE YOURS!

JOSHUA CHAPTER 1 STARTS WITH A BOLD DECLARATION!!

Joshua 1 3 times he instructs them to:

“BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS”

His Provision – v.3 –“ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.”

His Power – v. 5 – “No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life.”

His Presence – v. 5 — “as I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous.”

His Providence – 7 – ““Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”

His Protection – v. 9 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

TODAY: CHAPTER 2

On their path into the Promised Land, Jericho was in the way.....

-IT WAS THE ENTRANCE TO THE LAND!

This was going to be the first major battle to take their land from the Canaanites.

Deuteronomy 9:1 Hear, Israel: You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky.

THEY WERE ON A MISSION AND JERICHO WAS IN THE WAY!

-One of the most fortified cities in that era!

Jericho’s location was key to its significance.

The city was in the lower Jordan Valley

Sits just west of the Jordan River and about 10 miles NW of the Dead Sea.

It sat in the broadest part of the Jordan plain

-3,500 feet below Jerusalem -only 17 miles away.

-Jesus said in His parable that the good Samaritan
“went down from Jerusalem to Jericho”

In the Old Testament, it was often called the “City of Palms” because even though it was surrounded by dessert, it was green and fertile and was a spring fed oasis.

You could see anything coming from any direction because of the location.

-So Jericho controlled the migration routes of the entire area!

Jericho was one of the principal seats of idol worship in Canaan.

-devoted to Ashtaroth, the goddess of the moon.

It embraced the vilest and most degrading in the religion of the Canaanites.

-If they could take down Jericho, they could take down anyone!

So Joshua sent 2 spies out to check it out!

Joshua 2:1-15 Rahab and the Spies

1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. 2 The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.” 4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” 6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof. 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, **“I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.** 10 We have **heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea** for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, **our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.**

12 “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.” 14 **“Our lives for your lives!”** the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully **when the Lord gives us the land.**” 15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall.

1) God is always working behind the scenes Preparing your miracle!

Joshua 2:8-9 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, **“I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.**

GOD WAS ALREADY FILLING THEIR HEARTS WITH FEAR!

Joshua 2:11 When we heard of it, **our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.**

INTERESTING DECLARATION: **for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.**

Many scholars believe that this Declaration is why she was saved!!

The power of The One True God was being made known!

God's reputation being made known....

.....to build FAITH in the Israelites and FEAR in the enemy.

The reason God showed his delivering power so strongly through the people of Israel was TO SHOW THAT HE WAS GOD!!!!

-Most battles were demonstrating God's power to the Israelites and ALL OTHER NATIONS!

-God knew very well that they needed reminding that HE is giving them the victory!

BUILDING TRUST & OBEDIENCE!

HE WAS GIVING THEM THE LAND HE PROMISED!

Deuteronomy 9:3-6 But be assured today that the Lord your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; he will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the Lord has promised you. 4 After the Lord your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, "The Lord has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is going to drive them out before you. 5 It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 6 Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

-SHOT'S FIRED!!!

-THEN HE REMINDS THEM OF THE GOLDEN CALF!

NOW GOD WAS GOING TO GIVE THEM JERICHO!

- 1) **God is ALWAYS working behind the scenes preparing your miracle.**
- 2) **God INVITES you into the story.**

Why Rahab?

- She most likely had her info from people staying with her!
- She had the inside scoop from the outside world.

Back to the 2 spies!

Verses 16-22 The Spies tell Rahab to gather her family and tie a scarlet cord on her window so the soldiers know to protect them!

Joshua 2:23-24 Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24 They said to Joshua, “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”

So Joshua calls all his Generals into the War Room!

EVERYONE IN JERICHO IS MELTING IN FEAR

HERE IS THE PLAN.....we are gonna walk!

-once a day for 6 days.....7 on the 7th with trumpets

-and we will shout the last time!

THEME: TRUST & OBEY!

Last week: it is easy to obey when it makes sense!

Joshua 6:1-4 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2 Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. 3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”

Out of this ENTIRE CITY.....-God spares one family

Rahab is a picture of God's mercy...

-An outsider, enemy, that should be killed because of her being a prostitute.

-The LAW of Moses said she should be killed!

Joshua 6:25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

YEP!.....wanna know why?

She married one of the spies!

Rahab actually falls in love with Salmon. Has a son named Boaz

Boaz meets Ruth.....and their great grandson is King David

REHAB IS THE GREAT GREAT GRANDMA OF KING DAVID!!!!

THIS STORY ILLUSTRATES THE STORY OF JESUS!

-IT RUBS ALL OF THE LAW THE WRONG WAY!

According to the Law of Moses.....she is an outsider and should be killed because of her being a prostitute.

God offers GRACE ABOVE HIS LAW!

-THE LAW SAYS WE ALL DESERVE DEATH!

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RAHAB is mentioned 3 times in the NT!

-ONCE IN THE LINEAGE OF JESUS

**Matthew 1:4-6 Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,
⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.**

HOW DID THIS WOMAN GET ON THE LIST???

WHY DID SHE GET “INVITED” INTO THIS STORY OF GRACE??

WHAT DID SHE DO?

SHE SIMPLY DECLARED HER FAITH IN GOD!

Joshua 2:11 for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the

earth below.

THAT DECLARATION CHANGES HER LIFE & ETERNITY!

Rahab is mentioned in the “hall of faith”

Hebrews 11:30-31 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

Rahab’s actions are also mentioned in James 2:25–26 as an example of true, living faith.....

James 2:25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?

Significance of Rahab? She was the first Gentile grafted into the family!

1) You feel discredited because of your past!

2) Need a miracle!

-Have to trust God is working behind the scenes

3) You want to start your faith journey today!

Like Rahab.....you are INVITED into The Story!