



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

November/December, 2016

Praying Through Joshua 2

In the previous edition of **Biblical Manhood**, we examined **Joshua 2**. We looked at the lessons that we can learn about God and His salvation from that chapter. My plan for this issue was to go on to **Joshua 3**. Yet, I'm continually drawn back to this chapter. It has become a favorite of mine.

As we saw in the last issue, **Joshua 2** is one of the great salvation stories of the Old Testament. As God prepares to inflict judgment on the land of Canaan, God delivers a woman and her family. In the midst of His burning wrath, He determines to show mercy. It is a powerful Old Testament display of His salvation to the undeserving.

This chapter has provided me with a number of insights in how to pray. It has encouraged my prayer life. How can this chapter teach us how to pray?

It encourages me to pray for protection in spiritual warfare.

This chapter opens with Joshua sending out the spies to investigate Jericho. Their commander sent them into enemy territory. The king of Jericho quickly finds out about their presence in Jericho (**2:1-2**). He sends word to Rahab, demanding that Rahab give these men up to him (**2:3**). Yet, Rahab refuses to do this (**2:4-6**). She chooses to hide and protect the spies and enabled them to escape (**2:7-8, 23**).

It's an amazing account. God protected the spies who had been sent into enemy territory.

God used this sinful woman to protect these men. God did not need Rahab's lie to protect these men. Had she told the truth, God could well have worked in other ways to deliver the spies. God has total ability to confuse and redirect those who are seeking to abort His purposes. However, all this is speculation. Rahab was being herself. Lying came naturally to her, as it does to every sinner. God worked through this to deliver the spies.

This has encouraged me to pray and believe God for spiritual protection in the midst of the daily warfare of the Christian life. My Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ, daily sends me out into enemy territory. I have to labor and witness in the enemy's territory. Yet, I can trust God to protect me and sustain me as I seek to do His will.

It challenges me to pray for people to hear and receive the Word of God.

This text illustrates that salvation comes by faith. It is the living illustration of **James 2:14-26**. Why did Rahab trust in the Lord? How did she know about the Lord and His mighty works? She confesses this in **2:9-11**. The truth of who God is has already penetrated Jericho! What the Lord had done for His people had already pierced the walls of Jericho!

Rahab heard about what God did in Egypt. She had been told of how God parted the Red Sea. She had been given reports of how God had helped Israel in the wilderness. Hearing of who God is and what He has done brought her to faith. Hearing about who God is and what He had done melted her heart into true faith.

The Bible records who God is and His mighty works. It reveals Him and how He works in this world. It is only as people hear and receive the Word that they can come to true faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

This stirs me to pray that people will hear and receive the Word of God. **Romans 10:17** reveals God's method of salvation. It is only when a person hears who God is and what He has done in the Word of God that he will be able to trust in God. Faith is wrought in a person through the Word of God.

At the same time, it burdens me to share the Word of God with others. Since faith comes through hearing, it is our responsibility to share the Word with others. Whether in preaching, teaching, witnessing, or daily conversation, we need to saturate it with the Word. We must talk of who God is and what God has done in history, both the history of the world and our own personal history.

It reminds us of the depths of God's mercy.

This chapter gives me hope. It gives me hope for people outside of Christ. Like me, I'm sure you have people that you know that are sinful and hardened to the gospel. It may be a family member, a friend, a coworker, or an acquaintance. It appears that there is little, if any hope, for this person to come to Christ in

true faith. It's difficult to keep praying in this situation.

Yet, that's where this chapter strengthens me and encourages me. Rahab trusts in the Lord; she experiences His salvation (**2:12-21; James 2:14-26**). Rahab was the most unlikely person to turn to the Lord and trust in Him. Rahab, spiritually speaking, had nothing going for her. She was a Gentile prostitute in a thoroughly depraved and evil society. Yet, this Rahab turns the Lord. She is changed by her trust in the Lord.

Don't give up praying for the hardened people in your life. Don't lose hope for those that there seems to be no hope. Keep seeking the Lord. Cry out to your Father for his or her salvation. The mercy of our God is rich and deep, richer and deeper than our finite minds can grasp. There is hope! Keep praying and don't give up! We shouldn't categorize lost people by how likely they are to respond to the gospel. We are to plead for God to save them. This is because of the depths of God's mercy.

This text provokes me to trust God even when I don't understand.

One of the unusual parts of this account is the use of the scarlet cord (**2:18**). The spies give her a scarlet cord. She is to mark her house with this scarlet cord. They will be faithful to their rescue promise if Rahab keeps the agreement, gathering all her house in the house marked by this scarlet cord (**2:17-20**).

There have been some fanciful and imaginative interpretations of this text. I've read numerous explanations of what the scarlet cord meant or stood for. To Rahab, it may have seemed strange to tie this scarlet cord to her house. It seems strange to me. Yet, she did it because it symbolized her faith in and

obedience to the Lord. It revealed her faith in action. She didn't have to understand it all; she had to trust the Lord and obey.

This is a reminder to me to trust and obey God even when I don't understand. God doesn't usually share the details of His plans with us. He simply calls us to trust and obey Him. I'm thankful for this example. There have been many times when I didn't understand what God was up to. Yet, God doesn't give explanations. He calls for trust and obedience.

I think that this also applies in our praying. When I pray and don't see an answer, I am to trust God and keep praying. When I call on God and it appears there is no change, I am to seek Him faithfully. Faith presses through regardless of how we feel or what we see. We pray because God has commanded us and has opened the way to Him through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

You may not understand what God is up to. You might not see how God is at work. Yet, faith keeps praying. Faith stirs us to ask. Faith clings to God. Don't yield to frustration and despair. Keep seeking your Father.

This text moves me to praise God for His sovereign power.

This text points us to the sovereign power of God. God preserved the lives of these spies. He saved Rahab. He would deliver Rahab and her family. He would hand the city of Jericho over to the Israelites. All these things took place by His sovereign power.

God has conquered many "Jericho's" down through the centuries. He has totally transformed situations. There is no reason to doubt that He can do it again. He is well able to

do it again. He is the God of almighty, sovereign power.

This drives me to my knees in worship. It stirs me to praise God for His almighty power. It makes me want to sing as I reflect on how God has power and how He manifests it in this world. He is worthy of all our adoration because He is the God of almighty power.

At the same time, this truth emboldens me to pray. Since He is the God of all power, He is able to intervene. He can hear and respond to my prayers. He can do exceedingly abundantly above all that I can ask or think. What a motivation to pray!

World Prayer Plan

January

- 1-Afghanistan-The Church
- 2-Afghanistan-The Lost
- 3-Albania
- 4-Algeria
- 5-American Samoa
- 6-Andorra
- 7-Angola
- 8-Anguilla
- 9-Antigua
- 10-Argentina-The Church
- 11-Argentina-The Lost
- 12-Armenia
- 13-Aruba
- 14-Australia-The Church
- 15-Australia-The Lost
- 16-Austria-The Church
- 17-Austria-The Lost
- 18-Azerbaijan
- 19-Bahamas
- 20-Bangladesh
- 21-Barbados
- 22-Belgium
- 23-Belize
- 24-Benin
- 25-Bermuda

- 26-Bhutan
- 27-Bolivia-The Church
- 28-Bolivia-The Lost
- 29-Botswana
- 30-Brazil-The Church
- 31-Brazil-The Lost

February

- 1-British Virgin Islands
- 2-Brunei
- 3-Bulgaria
- 4-Burkina Faso
- 5-Burundi
- 6-Byelarus
- 7-Cambodia
- 8-Cameroon
- 9-Canada-The Church
- 10-Canada-The Lost
- 11-Cape Verde Islands
- 12-Cayman Islands
- 13-Central African Republic
- 14-Chad
- 15-Channel Islands
- 16-Chile
- 17-China-The Church
- 18-China-The Lost
- 19-China-Persecuted Believers
- 20-China-Spiritual Warfare
- 21-China-Missionaries
- 22-China-Agencies Working in China
- 23-China-Provision of Bibles
- 24-China-Christian Literature
- 25-China-Conversion of Soldiers
- 26-China-Collapse of Communism
- 27-China-Taiwan
- 28-Colombia-The Church

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