



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

September/October, 2016

Grace In Wrath

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.

In this chapter, Joshua sends out spies to gain intelligence concerning the land, especially their first target, Jericho. In the opening verses, we see the sending out of the spies (2:1-4). The spies penetrate Jericho and stay in the house of a prostitute named Rahab. However, the king of Jericho is told that they are staying with Rahab.

Next, we see the support of the spies (2:8-13). Rahab protects the Israelite spies. She sends their pursuers in an opposite direction that they might be able to escape. Rahab asks these spies to deliver her family and her when they take the Promised Land (2:14-21). These spies promise salvation if she will keep their invasion a secret and if she will put a scarlet cord in her window.

The chapter closes with the security of the spies (2:22-24). The spies evade their

pursuers and return to Joshua. They debrief him, informing him that the people fear them and God's deeds are known among them.

In this historical account, we can learn a variety of lessons. *First, we have an illustration of God's grace.* In a book devoted to the harsh

conquest of Canaan, we encounter God's grace at the beginning. This is a story of great grace. Humanly speaking, Rahab had nothing going for her. The Bible lists her liabilities:

- **She was a Gentile.** She lived as a pagan in a thoroughly pagan city. She had no family background of a knowledge of God.
- **She was an Amorite.** The Amorites were only one of many people inhabiting Canaan at this time. They were a grotesquely violent, totally depraved, thoroughly pagan culture. Because of their wickedness, God had determined to judge and destroy them (Genesis 15:14-16).
- **She was a prostitute.** She made her living in a way that was a constant offense to God. She was a morally wicked woman.

Yet, God rescues this woman. He saves her from His judgment. It is a stunning reminder of His grace. The great and inexplicable grace of God delivered her and her family. She was not worthy nor did she earn it. Our salvation is rooted in this amazing grace. Every believer should rejoice in this grace that has delivered him from sin and eternal damnation.

It's also a reminder to us that we should never despair about anyone. No sinner is beyond the grace of God. No one is beyond the mercy of God. Don't lose hope for the lost you long to see come to Christ. Don't despair. Don't give up. Keep loving them. Keep praying for them. Keep sharing the gospel with them. No one is a hopeless case as this text shows us. This text ought to renew your faith in the power of God and His mercy.

This text also reveals that faith comes by hearing. 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. It leads her to trust in Him. This is God's method – faith comes from hearing (**Romans 10:17**). 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. The Word of God declares plainly who God is and what He has done. It is only as a person is exposed to the Word that faith can be established and grows in a person.

This highlights two actions that believers must carry out. We must **share** the Word with others. If faith comes by hearing God's Word, what must we do? We must declare that Word. We need to work it into our daily conversations. We need to offer it when the opportunity comes.

At the same time, we must **saturate** ourselves with the Word. I have people ask me, "How can I grow in my faith?" The answer is by saturating yourself with the Word of God. Read it. Memorize it. Meditate on it. Study it. Fill your life with the Word of God. As you fill your life with the Word of God, the Holy Spirit can stir and increase your faith.

This text reminds us that we must believe in the historicity of God's works in this world. You may ask, "What do you mean by that?" I mean this; we must believe that the biblical accounts of God's acts in history are true. They are not fairy tales. They are not made-up myths. God has actually worked in this world. He delivered Israel out of Egypt. He parted the Red Sea. He miraculously preserved Israel in the wilderness.

The sheer historical force of what God had done and what He would do generates faith in her heart! She is prepared to risk her life. She is prepared to cut herself off from her background, to risk being charged as a traitor, and to do everything she can to help the spies. Why? It is because of her faith in the true and living God who had acted in history! She didn't trust in the Lord because of a fairy tale. She didn't do these things because of a myth.

The Bible is gloriously and stubbornly historical. And we must never tire of asserting this. If Christianity can be reduced to religious speculation or an ethical code, it can easily be dismissed.

However, Christianity is not a myth. It is not simply a code of conduct. It is rooted in God who has acted in this world. He sent Jesus Christ into this world. He lived a sinless life. He died on the Cross. He rose again from the dead. This is why we can trust in the Lord. Our faith has a firm and secure resting place – in God who has actually worked and revealed Himself in time.

This text teaches us that faith leads to action. Rahab is a powerful example of the truth that faith works (**James 2:14-26**). On the other hand, faith without works is dead (**James 2:26**). The life of faith is always expressed in the activities of obedience to the Lord. Her faith in the Lord led her to act.

What did her faith move her to do? The following actions flow out of her faith in the Lord:

- Rahab received the spies.
- Rahab hid the spies.
- Rahab helped the spies escape.
- Rahab puts her life on the line.
- Rahab tied the scarlet cord outside at her house.
- Rahab turned from her own past and people.
- Rahab identified with the power of God.

All these things were the result of her faith in the Lord. Her faith stirred her to act.

What a reminder to us! Faith in the Lord moves us to obey and honor the Lord. We deceive ourselves if we say that we have faith in the Lord and then don't seek to live our lives for Him. If our faith doesn't lead us to obey, it is of no value to us now or in eternity.

Perhaps you need a "faith lift." You may have trusted the Lord and walked in obedience. Yet, lately, your faith has sagged and your

obedience has waned. Ask the Lord to renew and strengthen your faith that will lead you to obey and honor Him.

Perhaps you've never trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ. I want you to know that God sent Jesus Christ into this world. Jesus Christ died on a cross for sinful people. He then rose again from the dead. If you will believe this in your heart and confess Him as your Savior, He will save you. He will change your life. You can trust the Lord. He acted in history by sending Jesus Christ to die and rise again. Now, if you will trust in Christ, God will act in your history. He will rescue you and give you a new life.

World Prayer Plan

November

- 1-Turks and Caicos Islands
- 2-Tuvalu
- 3-Uganda-The Church
- 4-Uganda-The Lost
- 5-Ukraine-The Church
- 6-United Arab Emirates
- 7-United Kingdom-The Church
- 8-United Kingdom-The Lost
- 9-United Kingdom-Spiritual Awakening
- 10-England
- 11-Northern Ireland
- 12-Scotland
- 13-Wales
- 14-United States-The Church
- 15-United States-The Lost
- 16-United States-Spiritual Awakening
- 17-United States-Missionary Fervor
- 18-United States-Government
- 19-United States-Spiritual Unity
- 20-Uruguay
- 21-Uzbekistan
- 22-Vanuatu
- 23-Venezuela-The Church

24-Venezuela-The Lost
 25-Vietnam-The Church
 26-Vietnam-The Lost
 27-Vietnam-Open Doors
 28-Virgin Islands
 29-Revival In Caribbean
 30-Wallis and Futura Island

30-Worldwide Prayer For World Evangelization
 31-The Soon Return Of Jesus

December

1-Yemen-The Church
 2-Yemen-The Lost
 3-Yugoslavia
 4-Bosnia
 5-Hercegovina
 6-Montenegro
 7-Serbia
 8-Macedonia
 9-Zaire-The Church
 10-Zaire-The Lost
 11-Zambia
 12-Zimbabwe
 13-Africa
 14-Asia
 15-Caribbean
 16-Eurasia
 17-Europe
 18-Latin America
 19-Middle East
 20-North America
 21-Pacific
 22-The Fall of Islam
 23-The Fall of Hinduism
 24-Bible Translation and Distribution Across
 the World
 25-That The Glory and Power of Jesus Would
 Be Seen Across The World
 26-More Missionaries
 27-Believers With A Heart For The World
 28-Increase In Giving To Mission Efforts
 29-Destruction of Satan's Grip Over the Nations

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