



MONDAY 7 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 2:1 & I Corinthians 10:1-13

Plug In...

This next scene is loaded with tension. Joshua sends spies out from Acacia Grove and they end up in a prostitute's house.

The last time the Israelites were at Acacia Grove they engaged in idolatrous sex with the Moabites (see [Numbers 25:1-3](#)). This happened while Israel wandered in the Wilderness. They were wandering in the Wilderness for forty years because last time spies were sent into the Land, except for Joshua himself and Caleb, they came back and fostered distrust in the LORD's ability to take the land (cf. [Numbers 13-14](#)).

Chew It Over...

What question mark is placed over the heads of these two spies given they go out from Acacia Grove and arrive at a brothel-house?

What is the essential decision Israel are faced with again?

Do you notice how after your own sin and failures, God often graciously brings you back to the exact same place again? Read [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#). The two big sins in this passage that Paul is talking about are sexual and grumbling. Paul says they are temptations common to all people – even the Israelites. Yet, God promises a way out – an escape.

If Israel are tempted again to be scared, engage in sexual sin, commit idolatry, what is the one thing they are not taking up and therefore closing off their escape? It is the same for us.

Prayer Suggestion

Lord we confess that we get involved in wrong stuff because we think that will save us, give us satisfaction, secure us. When we are tempted, help us to trust in your promise, what you say is good and successful. Lord as we see you bring us back to similar situations with a renewed opportunity to trust, make us believe! ([Mark 9:24](#))



TUESDAY 8 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 2:1-7 & 2 Peter 3

Plug In...

The cities existing in Canaan are about to be destroyed. This event is looked at from multiple plots. The major plot is picked up directly in Joshua chapter 1. God is giving the Land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ([1:6](#)). A sub-plot is that God is judging people for their sin and rebellion. Again, chapter 1 brings out that there are people in the Land as enemies of God so therefore, the Israelites have to be strong and courageous. Further in the background God has exposed the problem of the current inhabitants of the Land ([Genesis 15:13-16](#)).

Prior to going into the Land, Moses told the Israelites that as God's people they needed to live counter-culturally to the Canaanites. [Leviticus 18](#) lists all the sexual sins that are the practices or normal way of living of the people of Canaan.

This background sets up the surprising thing that happens with Rahab. Rahab, as a prostitute, epitomises all that is wrong with Canaan and yet will repent and find mercy.

The spies arrive at a prostitute's house and rather than what happened in Numbers 25, we see Rahab not seduce, but begin to help these Israelites. Even on threat of her own life as the king of the land bashes down her door, she protects them.

Chew It Over...

We know God is holy and just and will judge. Yet this story gets us ready to see that God gives mercy to any that repent – all have opportunity before the end, no matter how far gone.

Let us never count anyone as beyond the mercy of God.

[2 Peter 3](#) is a wonderful part of Scripture that explains why God allowed time for Rahab, and even postponed the 'giving' of the Land for nearly 500 years.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God that you will understand the only reason we are likely to wake up again tomorrow, why there is another morning and sunset. May the Spirit remind you of this when you see the sun go down; may He prompt you to pray for a person you've relegated to beyond repair. Talk to God about His desire that none might perish.



WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 2:9-13

Plug In...

How did the epitome of all that is evil about Canaan cast herself on God's mercy?

She was evangelised! What did she hear? About God. She wanted that God.

[NB: the word Rahab keeps using is a word that describes the character of God, *hesed* (cf. [Exodus 34](#)). It is such a rich word in the Bible that you have to hyphenate to catch what it means: *faithful-loving-kindness-that-will-loyally-covenant-keep-through-mercy-and-compassion*. Anything less short-changes the word.]

Chew It Over...

2 Timothy 2:13 – “If we are faithless, He remains faithful—for God cannot deny himself.” Rahab had confidence because God is who He is.

Paul, in his letter to Timothy, while talking about the character of God is actually speaking of Jesus as God. If we died with Jesus, we will rise with Him. Why? Because God cannot deny His own faithfulness.

Prayer Suggestion

Cast yourself on Jesus, as God, as the *hesed*-God.



THURSDAY 10 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 2:14

Plug In...

Notice the strong response of the Israelites to Rahab. Verse 14 repeats the language of 'oath', 'life-for-life', 'faithfulness'. It is hard to escape that Rahab has joined the covenant-community of Israel. Yahweh is her God. The men recognise it.

Chew It Over...

Yes, there is lots made of Israel in the Bible. Lots of focus, lots of attention, they are to whom the promises of Abraham are given. Yet, being counted as Israel is not primarily because of race or kinship. We will see in [Joshua 7](#), that Achan is ethnically an Israelite yet really ends up being a Canaanite. Rahab, ethnically a Canaanite ends up being an Israelite.

What defines Israel? Read the following: [Romans 9:6-8](#) and [Galatians 3:7-9](#). Reflect on how Rahab embodies this truth.

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God for Jesus. Thank Him that we are included *in* Christ, considered Israel and so heirs of the promise. As we are situated like the Israelites, on the edge of the Promised Land, may we be bold and courageous *like* the Canaanite Rahab.



FRIDAY 11 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 2:15-21

Plug In...

After Rahab commits to God each action she takes signals what she believes. She acts out of and upon what she believes.

Chew It Over...

[Hebrews 11](#) references Rahab along with others who *lived a life* of faith. We see that the concept of faith in the Bible is not merely agreeing mentally to a set of beliefs but a life that responds in love and obedience. Rahab loved God's people, she was obedient to God.

God saves people to be fruit-bearing ([Ephesians 2:8-10](#)). That is, God's saving work produces fruit. The fruit bearing is not our contribution, it too is the gift of God – the start, middle, and result are all from God's gifting.

Hebrews says, and Rahab shows, saving faith produces a life that is full of actions that carry understanding of what God has said. Each action is loaded with what one believes.

Consider a few things: When angry, how will what you do next *carry* whatever you believe? [Think of the most recent thing that got you angry and what you did next. Why did you do that action? What result did you hope for?]

Think about the persistent actions of grumbling, bitterness, worry – what beliefs do those repeated actions have loaded into them? How does coming to church regularly, or not, *carry* what you believe about what God has said about church? What habitual actions fill up your time? Consider how all these investments are aiming to pull

something into being, to build some kind of future – what do those actions suggest you *believe* about ultimate things?

Prayer Suggestion

The *act* of prayer carries belief. Do you believe God listens, responds – that prayer is powerful as Jesus said (e.g. [John 15:16-17](#))? Praying more and about everything comes not from alarms and reminders, but belief. Pray like Rahab today: LORD you are God, God in heaven above and earth below! May I *enact* through every part of my life this which I believe.



WEEKEND 12-13 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 2:22-24

Plug In...

The spies report, “The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us”.

We are to read this in light of the last time spies scouted the land and reported back ([Numbers 13:26 – 14:38](#)).

Chew It Over...

God has told the Israelites what He will do. Do they believe? Verse 24 at least expresses what they mentally assent to. What they do next will *show* what they really believe.

Let us not by-pass how the story of the Israelites and what they *do* or *don't do* reveals what they most deeply believe. Paul tells Christians to learn from these stories ([1 Corinthians 10:1-11](#)).

The saying *You are what you worship* is poignant. What you hold most deeply is not read at the level of mere verbal statement. What you worship is shown up by what you *are*. What you engage in regularly, habitually, the rituals, the rhythms, the actions – this is the *act* of worship, and those actions *carry* what you believe. Paul gives case studies on how even the mundane things like eating and drinking *carry* implicitly what one believes (See rest of 1 Corinthians 10 & 11).

Prayer Suggestion

Pray using the words of Paul ([1 Corinthians 10:31-33](#)): Whatever we do Lord, may the actions be done because they display your glory. May our actions be loaded with glorifying God. May what we *do* flow out and enact putting others first, removing stumbling – may my actions be like Rahab so that others may be saved!