

From Bondage to Freedom (Joshua 2:1-24)

The Bible Series – Part 3

Life Church St. Louis – April 14, 2013

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Romans 15:4 (NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

John 8:34, 36 (NIV) Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Hebrews 11:31 (NIV) By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

1. We can _____ with Rahab

A. We live in a _____ society

Joshua 2:1a (NIV) Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho."

B. We have been in _____ to sin

Joshua 2:1b (NIV) So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.

2. We must change our _____

A. We must _____ sin's demands

Joshua 2:3 (NIV) 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."

B. We must _____ all for God

Joshua 2:4-6 (NIV) 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. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I

don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)

C. We must _____ God above all

Joshua 2:9-11 (NIV) "I know that the LORD has given this land to you 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. We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you ... When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."

3. We must _____ God's promise

Joshua 2:14 (NIV) "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."

A. We must trust God's _____ cord

Joshua 2:17-18a (NIV) The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, ...

B. We must bring others to _____

Joshua 2:18b (NIV) ... and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.

C. God will _____ us

Joshua 6:20,23 (NIV) When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her.

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Study Guide

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Intro. What is the purpose of the stories in the Bible (Romans 15:4)?

How did the Exodus of Israel from Egypt illustrate the freedom that God has for His children (John 8:34-36)?

How do the New Testament references to Rahab help us interpret her story (Hebrew 11:31, James 2:25, Matthew 1:5)?

1A. Compare the sinful Canaanite society of Jericho with our society today. Why did God judge them (Deuteronomy 9:5, 18:9-13)?

1B. What does the fact that Rahab was a prostitute tell you about God's love (Joshua 2:1)?

1C. In what ways do people today need to be set free from bondage to sin?

2A. What was Rahab risking by hiding the two spies (Joshua 2:2-6)?

2B. How could Rahab's deception of the soldiers be justified? Compare to Christians hiding Jews from the Nazis in WW2.

2C. How did Rahab's words demonstrate her change in allegiance from Jericho and its gods to Israel and the one true God (Joshua 2:8-13)?

2D. How is our allegiance to God tested by society's pressure on us?

3A. How did God respond to Rahab's faith through the two spies (Joshua 2:14)?

3B. How is the scarlet cord a type of the protection and freedom that comes through Jesus Christ (Joshua 2:17-18, Revelation 1:5)?

3C. Why must we make bringing others to freedom a priority in our lives (Joshua 2:18-21, 6:20-25)?