

Week Two – Study Notes for Zoom Bible Study



- The Mystery of God at Work
 - There are a lot of places where we might easily see God's hand at work.
 - But what about the times when the hand of God is hard to see?
 - God is at work everywhere.
 - In the dark and hopeless places in this world.
 - God is wooing the hearts of people in dire situations.
 - This is exactly what He did in the corrupt culture of Jericho as He worked in Rahab's heart.
- Before the Israelites prepared to take possession of the land God had given them, Joshua sent 2 spies to Jericho.
 - They needed to cross over the Jordan River at the flood stage.
 - Arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your feet will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river of Euphrates all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. Joshua 1:2-4.
 - Once they arrived, God directed their steps to an unlikely place-the house of a prostitute.
- What are some reasons we might think the 2 spies chose Rahab home?
 - Her house was built into the city wall and they could escape quickly if needed?
 - Joshua told them to go there.
 - Rahab probably would not have asked them a lot of questions?
 - We can only speculate, God knows! He had a plan.
- God led the spies to just the right place to find a woman inside Jericho who was sympathetic to their cause and had faith in the one true God.
 - When do you think Rahab actually got saved in this story?
- Scripture tells us that God directs our steps and leads us in the way we should go.
- As we follow God on the path He has set before us, we would love for Him to fill us in on all the details.

- When we surrender our lives to Him, it is more like signing a blank piece of paper, handing it back to Him, and relying on His direction and guidance to show us where to go and what to do.
 - We may end up in some unlikely places, but we have nothing to lose in following Him.
 - He is completely trustworthy, and He will accomplish His plans.
- It did not take long for news of the Israelites to reach the ears of Jericho's King.
- What emotions did Rahab likely feel when the King's men came knocking at her door?
 - She was harboring two enemies of government in her home.
 - She likely did not have time to decide what to do.
- It would have been good hospitality for Rahab to try to protect her guests, but how did Rahab's actions go beyond hospitality?
- There is no getting around it! Rahab lied.
 - Even though her lie helped the two spies escape, was that right for her to do?
- It is also worth noting that Rahab's faith was still NEW.
 - When God saves us, He mercifully does so despite our sinful patterns.
 - We begin our lifelong journey of sanctification. Fancy word for "becoming more like Jesus".
 - Rahab's patterns including patterns of lying and deceit likely did not die instantly.
- An unexpected faith:
 - Rahab's response to the spies tells us that the Canaanites were living in dread of the Israelites and their God.
 - They were afraid that what had happened to the Israelites' other enemies would also happen to them.
 - Both Rahab and the Canaanites displayed a type of fear for the Lord.
- Even though Rahab had grown up in a pagan culture, she chose to place her faith in God because of the stories she had heard about the Israelites.
 - She decided that the God of Israel is the one and only true God and she was willing to put her life on the line for her beliefs.

- She knew the strength of Jericho, yet she trusted the god of Israel to triumph over her fortified city.
- ***In the same way as the Israelites, we can easily substitute the idea of having faith for actually living by faith.***
- Just as God intervened in Rahab's life, we also need God to intervene in our lives and help us live out our faith that we claim to have.
- The parting of the Red Sea had taken place forty years earlier.
 - Perhaps Rahab heard about it at the time.
 - She believed the stories she heard and that God was the one and only true god.
 - She was willing to risk everything for that faith.
- The Power of God Stories:
 - When God directed the spies to Rahab's home, perhaps they were surprised to hear Rahab's testimony.
 - Her story shows what happens when people hear of God's mighty deeds.
- Whenever the lost world sees evidence of the supernatural hand of God moving in and among His people, they take notice.
 - Some people will be terrified; some will harden their hearts, some will believe.
 - God stories uniquely penetrate our hearts and minds.
 - God works in the mystery of salvation in people's lives, but there is a part He wants US to play.
- Before someone can have faith in Christ, they first need to hear about Him.
- God sends us not just to far away countries, but to our next-door neighbor's house, to the person at work, to the new people that come to church.
- Always be Ready!
 - Ultimately, the power to win souls and impact lives flows from Christ's sacrifice on the cross, but we can be a part of when we share our testimonies or God stories with others.
 - ***When was the last time you had a conversation with a non-Christian about the hope you have in Christ?***