

Week Five – Summarized Study Guide Notes



- The Big Picture
 - We can always trust in God's promises.
- When we are up close to the events happening in the here and now, we cannot see the big picture of what God is doing.
 - We only see the little dots of time and space that we occupy at this moment.
 - God is omniscient.
 - God knows everything.
 - Our point of view is limited.
 - God has a wide-angle lens.
 - He sees the whole picture He is painting.
- Even when we do not understand what God is doing in our lives, we can still trust Him.
- Joshua 2:16-25
- If we were to put ourselves in Rahab's shoes what would it take to tell our family about the coming judgment?
 - Courage?
 - Impulsiveness?
 - Love?
 - Faith?
 - Persuasion?
 - Judgmentalism?
- There is one more thing Rahab must have done after the spy's departure – she had to wait.
 - After she gathered her family into her home, they all waited.
 - The scarlet cord hanging outside the window, waiting until the Israelites return.
- Rahab did not know how long she would have to wait.
 - She did not know what was going on across the river at the Israelite camp.
 - All she knew was that she had to WAIT in her house,
 - In her faith
 - With her family
 - Ready whenever the Israelites came to conquer Jericho.
- Joshua 6:1-20
- When we hear the account of the fall of Jericho, it is usually told from Joshua's perspective or that of the children of Israel.
 - Today, we are going to see the story from Rahab's perspective.
- Jericho was in a state of siege.
 - The enemy had not even appeared.
 - The people were terrified because of what God had done in the past.
 - No one was allowed in or out of the city – Tensions were high!

- Rahab lived within the city walls.
 - It is conceivable to think she could watch from her window as she waited for the Israelites to return.
- Rahab probably had mixed emotions when she saw the Israelite army approach Jericho.
 - She thought about what was going to happen to all the people she had grown up with.
 - She knew they were all going to die since they had rejected God.
 - Perhaps she also had an inner sense of assurance she and her family were going to be spared.
- Rahab saw the “bigger picture” from her window.
 - She was not aware of God’s instructions to Joshua.
 - She had faith God had given the Israelites the land.
 - She had no idea when all this would take place.
- Like Rahab, we can only see “out our windows”.
 - As we look at the troubling events in our lives and our world, we have limited vision and perspectives.
 - We cannot see the entire picture.
- Since we do not have the same perspective as God:
 - We need to walk in this world by faith.
 - Trusting God sees everything.
 - God knows what is best for us and what will take place in our future.
 - We have peace trusting God knows best.
- Trusting His Promises:
 - As Rahab watched the Israelites march around the city she might have been tempted to doubt she and her family were going to be saved.
 - All she had to rely on was the word of two strangers, she had never met before.
 - They promised that God was going to give them the land and that they would spare her family.
- Much like the spies who sought out Rahab and explained how she could be saved, Jesus sought out for the lost to let us know we could escape the coming destruction.
- Jesus is coming back!
- As we wait for this day sometimes it looks like God is not doing anything about the evil in this world.
 - Some days we may be tempted to wonder if He really will come back.
 - The word tells us that a thousand years are as one year with the Lord and one day is as a thousand. His time is not same as ours. He is patient!

- Rahab and her family had to be outside the camp, at least temporarily, because they were ceremonially unclean.
 - They needed to be cleansed and purified according to Jewish law before they could join the rest of the Israelites.
 - This gives us a beautiful picture of what Jesus did for us.
- Hebrews 13:12 – Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood.
 - When Jesus took the sins of the world on Himself, He became UNCLEAN.
 - He went to the lowest places.
 - He was separated from God and His people.
 - He was raised to make us clean.
 - He went “outside” the camp so to speak to bring us into the people of God.
 - He was delivered for our trespasses and raised for our justification.
- When He was resurrected, Jesus overcame the pollution of sin that put Him “outside” the camp.
 - When we trust Him for salvation, we are made pure and alive in Him.
- Rahab was no less a sinner than anybody else in Jericho.
 - God gave her faith and spared her life to show His Mercy!
- It is an awesome thing to think that God took our sorrows on Himself.
 - He did, and here is the incredible news:
 - For those who trust in Christ, one day God will turn our sorrows into joy.
- When the Israelites marched around Jericho, Rahab knew she was not going to find refuge in the fortress of the city walls.
 - Although she did not know a lot about God, she looked to Him and His people to protect her and her family.
- Today, we have spiritual advantages that Rahab never had:
 - We have the cross
 - We have the Bible.
 - We have the Holy Spirit of God dwelling inside of us.
- Still today, many people have heard the gospel truth and over and over and over again continue in rebellion and non-repentance of their sins and placing their trust in Jesus.
- We will all encounter trouble in our life.
 - It is inescapable in the reality of a fallen world.
 - Sometimes troubles are huge, other times they are more chronic:
 - Creeping and Cumulative
- These circumstances point us to our all-powerful God!