

Joshua

Lesson #3, Chapter 2

Ask the Lord for His help to understand and apply His Word as you read Chapter 2 in preparation for this lesson.

1. As the rest of the nation prepares to cross the Jordan (1:11), Joshua secretly sends out 2 spies to Jericho. What might be a reason that he kept this mission secret? What was Joshua's previous experience spying out the land? Give a brief summary from Num. 13:17-14:10.
2. Where do the two spies end up once they arrive in Jericho (verse 1)?
3. Who finds out about the spies being in Jericho (verses 2-3)?
4. What does Rahab do for the spies in verses 4-6? Was she successful (verse 7)?
5. The spies go to the house of Rahab, the harlot (possibly the least conspicuous place) where she hides them on the roof. When the king enquires about them, she lies to protect them. Was it right for her to lie in order to save their lives? Does the end (the spies' protection) justify the means (the lie)? Look up the following verses to prepare your answer. Ex. 20:16; Lev. 19:11; Prov. 12:22; Titus 1:2; Rom. 3:23; Ps. 103:3; 130:3-4; Col. 3:5-10; I Jn. 1:9.

6. What does Rahab tell the spies that will be useful to report back to Joshua (verses 8-11)? How had this been prophesied before (Ex. 23:27 and Deut. 2:25)?

7. What does it mean when Rahab says, “*our hearts melted away with fear?*” Ps. 22:14 and Is. 13:6-9 will help you formulate your answer.

8. Verses 9-11 mention the morale of the people of Jericho. What events does Rahab cite to account for their demoralized state (verse 10)?

9. How is verse 11 a statement of faith by Rahab and how is her faith demonstrated? See verses 4-7 and 12-13. (Keep in mind her background, profession, pagan culture).

10. What pledge do the two spies make to her (verse 14)?

11. How did the two spies get out of Jericho without being seen (verse 15)?

12. What advice does Rahab give the two spies in verse 16?

13. The two spies give Rahab certain conditions to which she must comply, or they will be free from their oath of safety for her and her family. What are these requirements (verses 17-21)?

14. Where did the two spies go after leaving Rahab (verses 22-23)?

15. What did the two spies report to Joshua (verses 23-24)?

16. What was different about this reconnaissance mission from the one Joshua was a part of nearly 40 years previously (Num. 13:25-33)?

17. How is Rahab remembered in Scripture and what kind of life did she live later? See Josh. 6:25; Matt. 1:5-6; Heb. 11:31; and James 2:25.

18. What attributes about God caused Rahab to seek Him (verses 9-11)? How have those very same attributes of God been a source of encouragement and strength to you recently?

19. When Rahab heard the reports of God's miraculous doings, it ignited an intense faith in her that would not be ignored. That desire to know the One, true God of Israel caused her to put her life on the line to help the two spies, while also turning her back on her old way

of life. Is there that same intensity in your life to seek God, to be willing to follow Him no matter what the cost? Ask God to fan the flame of desire and devotion to Him.

20. Chapter 2 is a remarkable account of the grace and mercy God extends to sinners. Rahab was a prostitute, the lowest of the low, among a people God intended to destroy because of their great wickedness. Yet her heart was prepared by God to act in faith. She not only became a Jewish proselyte but was also part of the Davidic/Messianic line. Think back over your life. How has God moved you from a position of cursing to one of blessing? What changes has He made in you?

21. Think too, of the people God has placed in your life. Is there a Rahab or two who needs to hear of God's holiness and love and forgiveness? Write down their name(s). Begin praying for them, then actively look for opportunities to speak to them about the Lord.