

Title: From Egypt to Jericho

Text: Hebrews 11:30-31

In our study of faith, we want to come, today, to the example of Josuha and a woman by the name of Rahab. Our subject: FROM EGYPT TO JERICH0.

Take your Bibles and turn with me to the book of Hebrews . Hebrews chapter 11 verse 30 and 31.....(Read vs. 30-31)

LET'S LOOK TO THE LORD IN A MOMENT OF PRAYER

In Vs 30 we have the example of Josuha. Josuha was a great leader. He was trained by Moses. Vs 30 says "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been encircled for seven days."

By faith, it says, it happened. There are two things here that I want you to see.

(1) One, is the tremendous triumph of faith. When you exercise faith great things happen. The Bible says that the walls of Jericho fell down. And what a victory that was.

Now, I love what many people believe about this story. Many say, "Well, what happened was that as they were walking around the city these little thin breaks that the city of made of were pushed over. And so what looked like a fantastic thing was really only pushing some breaks over.

OH, NO! We know about the walls of Jericho. That ancient site of Jericho is sitting there in Jericho today. and you can visit it. By the way, the Bible also says that they burned Jericho.

It is very interesting in looking at the various levels of Jericho. And there is this one large pit on this ancient mount in Jericho today... one large pit where you see the ruins of ancient civilizations. and you see how these ancient walls were built. And also you find one particular part dating back to around 14 hundred where there was a great fire. Very interesting

14 hundred happens to be around the time that the Bible teaches that Jericho was conquered by the Jews.

A miracle happened. Well, how did it happen? Did they just go in and storm the walls and tear them down?

That is how we do it when we try to take on problems. And the walls sometimes are pretty big in our own lives. Sometimes the barriers almost seem impossible. How am I ever going to get this done? How am I ever going to see this happen? It might be something that you want to see happen in your home, in your marriage, in your business, whatever...and the walls seem almost too high to get over. Almost impossible to get over.

Well, it wasn't by trying to come up and storming the walls. They didn't have war machines or anything else. That wasn't God's way.

(1) Now, I see, first of all, that there was a great triumphant of faith. That when you exercise faith God will do tremendous things. And really it is kind of beautiful after you try. You know, you try to accomplish something, and all of your efforts are a waste of time, and you blow it, and things get worse. That is kind of a neat thing. It is almost like God waiting and saying: "Are you though?" ... You know, "Are you thought? Now can I do something?"

You know how we are? When all else fails let's believe God. How foolish we are.

(2) But the second thing I see is the test of faith. Faith is always tested. Learn a principle: if you are going to exercise true faith, it is going to be tested.

Think about how theirs was tested. Joshua said, "Let's go take the city." O.K. let's sharpen our swords and spears. And Joshua says, "No..No, we are just going to walk around the city."

"We are going to do what?"

"We are going to walk around the city."

"OH, just to get up courage or what?" What are we doing?"

"Well, we are going to walk around the city. And we are going to do this for 7 days."

"7 days..we are going to walk around the city?"

Yes, but we are only going to do it once for six days. And then on the 7th day we are going to do it 7 times."

"Do you realize, Joshua, what will happen if we walk around that city 7 times on the last day? Man, we are going to be tired."

"right. You are going to be tired."

"Now, how can we defeat a city when we are tired?"

But that is what they did. And then Joshua said, "Don't worry we are going to blow trumpets."

"OH, boy, that is terrific". "We are going to blow trumpets."

Faith is always tested. And I don't know about you, but my mind works that way. And I think it is there between the lines.

Can't you imagine what happened on the 12th time they walked around that city? "Boy, I am tired. My feet hurt. I sure hope Joshua knows what he is doing. If these walls come down, I will never deny God."

You know, they are tired and wiped-out. There was complaining and back biting. I know it went on. It went on all the way through the wilderness.

The Bible tells us that they continued, constantly, to murmur and complain in the midst of great miracles that God was doing.

Do you think we might do the same? Murmur and complain and get bitter. Instead of trusting God?

"Oh, he is not going to do that in my life. He is not going to do that in the church. No way!

The test of faith.....And I can just imagine the joy that must have come into their hearts as those walls start falling down.'

By the way, God said, "Just to prove it to you. Those walls are going to fall out, instead of in.

Now, in no ancient civilization do you find walls that fall out. They all fall in. Because you are attacking the city. You are pushing the wall in as you overcome the walls. They all fall in. God said, "These walls are going to fall out." And that is exactly what happened. The walls fell out. Fantastic miracle. They just went in and cleaned house. Tremendous.

But, our story doesn't end there. Vs 31 tells us how God began to work in one person's life. Again a tremendous example of faith.

Vs 31 says, "By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace."

Now, turn back to Joshua. We must take a look at this story. A lot of people have trouble with this one. Joshua chapter 2.....Joshua chapter 2 beginning with Vs 1.....(Read 2:1-10 (stop with word "Egypt"))

Now, may I stop there for a moment? Now, that was forty years before this occasion. But it was a well known fact of what happened. And I tell you one thing..a little wind blowing off some shallow water didn't get a report back up to Jericho. Something absolutely fantastic must have happened for her to say, "We have heard already what happened in Egypt. It was news all over the area in that day. Something amazing happened."

Archeology has even found a very interesting item. It is a stone tablet teaching about a Pharaoh that disappeared around the time that Moses left Egypt. And there are some very interesting facts there because somehow we miss a Pharaoh.

Well, if they dug into the dirt on the bottom of the Red Sea they might find him.....

Very interesting. The crossing of the Red Sea was well known.

Vs 10....(read vs 10-24)

Now, the simple little statement in Hebrews 11 is: "By Faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient."

So, that means that somehow the news of God's plan was already in Jericho. Other wise how would the people of Jericho be described as "those who were disobedient?"

What was it that these people were not believing? And why was it that Rahab already knew? God had already given her the information.

Some people say, "Well, didn't Rahab lie. And they God O.Ked it?" NO..No. I believe that God had already revealed his plan. And she had already indicated her faith and confidence. I know one thing. Those two Jews were not sent by Joshua to a harlot house.

Some people look at that and say, they just happened into that house. OH ...NO..She had already come to be a believer. She had already indicated that she believed that God was God of heaven and earth. She was already a believer.

And God honored her faith so much so that she married a man named Salman, Jew, who was in the line of the Messiah. Rahab married him. And they had a son named Boaz, who married Ruth..another Meabiteous.

Moabites

And Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed. Who had a son named Jessie. Who had a son named Daivid, who became the King of Israel. And a son of David shall eventually set on the Throne named Messiah.

Rahab was brought into the Messianic line. A woman who had faith. Was she a prostitute? YES!.....But God had delievered her.

I learn two things from this little verse and this story of Rahab that I would like to share with you.

(1) One, God's plan is no respector of persons. God took Rahab the harlot and he saved her. And he brought her into the Messanic line. You can read about that in Matthew1:5. She is one of the women mentioned in the line of the Messiah.

In James 2:25 she is commended as a woman who had faith. A faith that produced.

Listen, I don';t care what has happened in your past, or what sin is in your life right now, God's plan is no respector of persons. And when a person exercises faith, I can tell you one thing: faith makes us all equal at the foot of that cross. I don't care what is happening in your life. When Jesus died on that cross over 19 hundred years ago, he paid for every last sin that has ever been committed in the human race. Past..present..and future...All was paid for by Jesus. The moment you put you faith in Him, no matter what has happened in the past, God can make you a new person. And he can make you a blessing to others. Just like he did to Rahab. PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GRACE! PRAISE GOD FOR HIS FORGIVENESS.

(2) The second thing that I learned here was that God's promises are based on faith in his plan.

She knew exactly what God was going to do. She knew that God had given them the land. The very thing they were coming to do, she already knew that. And believed in it and accepted it.

And I noticed the result in her case was that she was not destroyed with those who were disobedient. And the reason was that she welcomed the spies in peace." Peace was already in her heart. She had no fear.

The point of this passage is she didn't welcome them fearing what they might do to her if she didn't respond. NO! She welcomed them ..she knew that God had sent them..she had the revelation of God ahead of time...she is already a believer...and she had peace in her heart when they came.

And God blessed it in a tremendous way. That was real faith on the part of Rahab. There was a lot at stake. Her whole family. Her own life. Yet, she believed God. AND SO SHOULD WE!!!!

LET'S CLOSE IN PRAYER