



Sunday, September 15, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 2:1-24

Faith is one of those words that can become so common in our Christian lingo that we fail to grapple with all of its depth and implications. Wheaton professor Daniel Treier helpfully explains that “repentance and faith involved in conversion have a three-part structure...The intellectual element contained in recognition of sin (repentance) and knowledge of the gospel (faith). The emotional element contained sorrow for sin (repentance) and trust in Christ’s sufficiency (faith). The volitional element contained abandonment of sin (repentance) and allegiance to Christ as Savior and Lord (faith).”

It is this kind of faith laid before us in Joshua chapter two. Rahab expresses the kind of repentance and faith that has fully turned to the living God from idols to worship and serve the Creator rather than created things. This kind of faith is not only worth modeling our lives after, but indeed is essential for us to claim the name “Christian.”

Context

Joshua 2 is a redemptive story in many ways. The obvious course-setting for the redemption of Rahab and her family is primary, but it also represents a redemptive moment for the people of Israel. The last foray of Israelite spies into the Promised Land yielded only fear and rebellion against the LORD (Numbers 13-14). Now, the next generation has an opportunity to fulfill the command of God and take up what was promised to Abraham’s descendants hundreds of years earlier. So, the report of the spies in Joshua 2 represents a clear departure from the fear of the previous generation and serves to strengthen the faith, even of Joshua, as the people prepare to enter the land.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 2:1-24

“Finding Faith in the Strangest Places”

Genuine Faith Does Something

- Don't get hung up on her lies
- James 2.20-26

Genuine Faith Believes Something

- Believed in one God
- Believed in a personal God
- Believed in a powerful God

Genuine Faith Continues

- 6.25 Lived with Israel
- Marries and has a family

Matthew 1.4-6

- Nahshon was father of Salmon
- Salmon had a son, Boaz, with Rahab
- Boaz marries Ruth – son, Obed, son Jesse, his son...
King David --- Jesus Christ

Discuss

- 1) How would you define “genuine faith”?

- 2) Read Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25. Is Rahab’s faith commended for the truths she believed about God or her actions in response? How does that compare with your definition of genuine faith?

- 3) How would you characterize Rahab’s statements in verses 9-11? Have you ever experienced the fear of God in a similar way?

- 4) What does it say about the character of God and His disposition toward us that He would save Rahab the prostitute and her family?

- 5) It seems common for people who have been Christians for a long time to cease being amazed by grace. Why do you think that is? And how do stories like Rahab’s prompt us to be amazed by God’s grace once again?