

Date: June 13, 2021

Pastor Steven Hardy

Series: Joshua: God Is Faithful

Title: "Truly The LORD"

Text: Joshua 2:1-24

Sometimes believers find it remarkable when a desperate sinner is saved by the Lord and then used significantly in his service. John Newton is author of arguably the most well-known and beloved Christian hymn "Amazing Grace", though once involved and invested in the slavery trade. The amazing grace of God reaches, saves, transforms and mightily uses desperate sinners because, quite literally, that is all he has to work with. Our surprise reveals how little we acknowledge truth about ourselves.

I. The story of an _____, 2:1-7; Galatians 6:1-10; Romans 7:14-24

II. The story of an _____, 2:8-11; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

III. The story of an _____, 2:12-24; 6:22-25; Matthew 1:5

The story of Rahab and the spies is more typical than we generally assume (or want to admit). Here and throughout Scripture we are reminded that people are sinners, and yet God mercifully uses them and even their sinful ways in accomplishing his purposes. Though our ways are not always just, and sinful actions are never justified, by faith sinners can be brought into a right standing with God and used in his service.



Joshua 2 is a reminder that God uses sinful people in fulfilling his purposes. The danger is that some might see Rahab as somehow more needy or desperate as a sinner because of her sinful lifestyle, in addition to the more "typical" (acceptable?) sin of lying. Take the opportunity to discuss the truth of our sin nature, and that in fact there is "no distinction" when it comes to our need for salvation or its availability (Romans 3:21-26). You may go a step further and discuss Romans 6 and the need for those who have been saved to "walk in newness of life" which means consciously presenting yourself to God as "slaves of righteousness". Philippians 3:8-16 is a strong encouragement to "press on" in becoming like Jesus.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT, STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. Paul makes the statement in Romans 3:22-23 that there is “no distinction” in that all (people) have fallen short of God’s glory. Honestly discuss your ability to see your own sin on the same level as something that seems more serious, like the sinful lifestyle of Rahab. Review Luke 18:9-14 and discuss ways this situation may be seen in the attitudes of some Christians today. Who do you identify with in that story...or who should you?

2. Describe Rahab’s faith from what we are told in Joshua 2:8-11. How clear is it from this passage that she is a genuine believer? What does this suggest about our ability to evaluate whether a person has been genuinely saved? Review Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25, and explain what further specific assurance these passages provide about her spiritual condition. What does the story contribute to the idea that “faith works”, or that the saved are God’s workmanship created to do good works?

3. In case there would be question about her identity, compare the Matthew 1:5 Rahab with Ruth 4:21. What do you think about there being a (former) prostitute in the lineage of Jesus? Consider the following names and background stories from Jesus’ lineage (and you could include others)—and consider who God uses as his servants. Can he use you?

- Judah and Tamar, Genesis 37:26-28; Genesis 38:6-26
- David, 2 Samuel 11
- Manasseh, 2 Kings 21:1-9

4. Is God still “God in heavens above and on the earth beneath” (Josh 2:11)? Obviously Rahab, believing this, feared God and his people more than the “powers that be” in Jericho, and acted accordingly. Would you say your fear of God is greater than fear of man, whoever it might be? What attitudes, actions, and emotions demonstrate whom you fear more?

NEXT WEEK: – Asa Hart, Candidate for Pastor of Discipleship, Ephesians 4:1-16, “The Church: Jesus’ Plan for Discipleship”

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