



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Joshua 2

KEY POINT: True faith consists of hearing, conviction and action.

FOR LEADERS

- **Attendance!:** We're asking ALL of our Communities to take attendance on Emergence Connect this season. Please be sure to make a note of who attended your group this week, and input that on your weekly event in EConnect! If you need any assistance with this we're happy to help!

GETTING STARTED

[1] Communities Video: Watch this week's community extras video!

[2] Icebreaker: What is your personal favorite Fall activity?

[3] Opener: What was one takeaway you had from the sermon this week?

BACKGROUNDS AND PREJUDGMENTS

Ask for a volunteer to read Joshua 2:1-7.

This week, Ryan began the sermon by focusing our attention on Rahab's background as a prostitute. He pointed out that we often think of prostitutes in the Bible one-dimensionally, as nothing but licentious women with low morals. However, (much like today) those who sold themselves in this way were often forced into it because of life circumstances or other injustices. Thus, we should see them with the compassionate eyes of Jesus rather than with our own judgmental assumptions.

- [1]** In what way(s) can our assumptions about someone be a hindrance to faithfulness in Christ?
- [2]** Name a time where your own assumptions or prejudgments were either proven wrong or found incomplete.
- [3]** What can we learn from the fact that the text of Joshua does not make any moral judgments about Rahab, either having to do with her background or with her dishonesty toward the king's messengers?
- [4]** Sometimes people avoid being involved with a church because they feel their sin is too heinous and they are beyond God's mercy. How does the story of Rahab speak into this? What other biblical examples do you know that reinforce the truth that no one is beyond God's mercy?

HEARING WHICH LEADS TO CONVICTION

Ask for a volunteer to read Joshua 2:8-14.

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith begins with hearing. We see this in the story of Rahab, as she explains that her fear of the Lord came as a result of having heard what God had done through Israel. This simple truth should remind every Christian that they have a responsibility and even an obligation to open their mouths and share the Gospel with those who do not know Christ.

- [5]** What are some factors that you think would make Christians apprehensive about doing this? How should Christians address such challenges?



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[6] What do you think it is that moves a person’s heart from mere hearing to hearing with conviction? Where do we see this at work in our passage this week?

Throughout the Bible, and especially in the Old Testament, faith is often called the “fear of the Lord.” In explaining this concept, Ryan pointed us to the Gospel of Matthew to remind us of Jesus’ words in Matthew 10.

Ask for a volunteer to read Matthew 10:26-33.

[7] Often, people define the fear of God simply as “respect.” Do you agree with this idea? Based upon Matthew 10 and our passage in Joshua 2, how would you personally define the fear of God?

[8] Our Companion Book for the Joshua series this week mentions that it is those who fear God who need to fear him the least. What do you think this means?

A CONFESSION THAT CONFORMS EVERYTHING

[9] What were some things that Rahab risked in order to follow God? What do you think this communicates to us about how we should be bold in our own faith?

[10] What are some risks that the Lord has asked you to take in your own faith? Where has trusting God cost you?

FAITH, ACTION, SALVATION OF OTHERS

Ask for a volunteer to read Joshua 2:15-21.

Rahab’s actions resulted in the salvation of the Israelite spies and her own family. This is a rather vivid picture of the way our fear of God ultimately results not just in our own good, but the good of others.

[11] In your opinion, is it possible to truly fear the Lord without your faith impacting other people?

[12] Consider that the Israelite spies – the first “believers” Rahab had ever known – did not exploit her as most of the other men in her life probably had, and most likely showed Rahab that the God she feared made men into good people. What are some opportunities that you have to show people this very same thing?

PRAYER

[1] Pray that the Lord would continue to bring conviction to your heart when you hear his Word.

[2] Pray that God would make us people of action, and not simply hearers only.