



Unit .08

Session .02

The Promise of Victory

Scripture



Joshua 2:8-13;

6:15-17, 20-25

8 Before the men of Jericho, she came up to them on the roof **9** and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. **10** For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. **11** And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. **12** Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign **13** that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” ... **15** On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. **16** And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city. **17** And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her

house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. ... **20** So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. **21** Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword. **22** But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.” **23** So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. **24** And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. **25** But Rahab the prostitute and her father’s household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

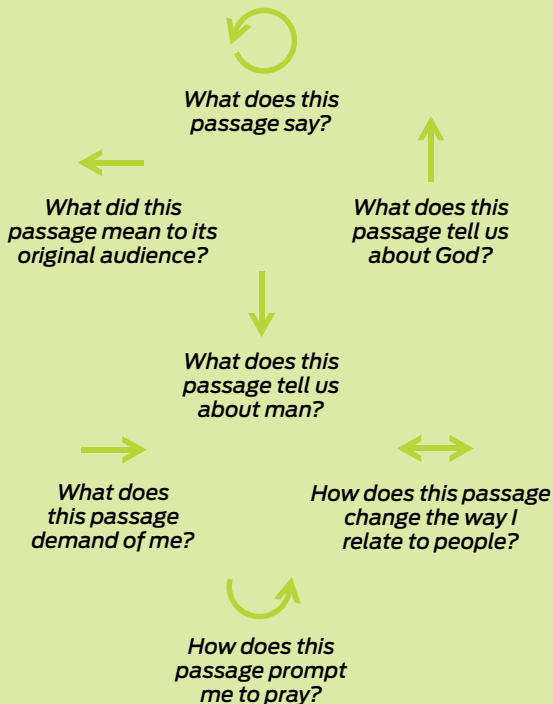
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Joshua 2:1-7

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Forty years before, twelve spies, including Joshua, had gone into the land. This time, it would not be twelve spies, but two. And this time, the spies' mission was not to scout the land to help determine the probability of victory; it was to scout the land, namely Jericho, to help determine the strategy for victory. The victory had been promised by God and this time the Israelites being led by the two faithful spies of the previous generation would enter the land in a posture of trust.

In this passage we are reminded that actions can be misleading. Both Moses' generation and Joshua's generation of Israelites began with the same action—from the outside they looked to be mirroring one another. However, the intent of their actions was very different. At best, the intent of Moses' spies was to act for faith—to find evidence that would help them develop trust in God. The intent of Joshua's spies, on the other hand, was to act from faith—to find what God had given them and perhaps how He had given it to them. Similar actions; different motivations. One scouting trip was done honoring God, the other rebelling against Him.

When have your actions seemed right from the outside, but you performed them with the wrong intentions or motivations? What happened?

Joshua 2:8-24

Word had traveled fast about what God had done for the Israelites. Rahab and the rest of the people of Jericho had heard about God drying up the waters of the Jordan River. They had heard of God giving the Israelites victory over the Amorites. And they believed. But while the people of Jericho believed in fear, Rahab believed in faith, which would lead to her deliverance from the coming judgment and inclusion with the people of God.

In these verses, we are reminded of the power of a testimony. Word of what God had done had traveled to Jericho because someone, somewhere, had told others what he or she had witnessed. It may have been one person; it may have been several people, or even many people, but someone's testimony ended up in Rahab's ears and led to her faith in God. And that is what we are called to do today as followers of Christ—we are to declare what God has done in Christ to others, trusting in God for our testimony to bear fruit.

What has God done, or is He doing right now, that you can tell someone else about today?

Joshua 6:1-14

Notice the verb tense the Lord used in verse 2. He used the past tense to speak of a future event. We know that God did not make a grammar mistake here; there is a reason why He used the past tense in this way here. He was affirming His sovereign authority over the situation. He was speaking of the future victory He will give Joshua and the Israelites in the past tense, because He had already willed it to happen and nothing can stop Him from bringing to pass what He wills. God's choice of verb tense was to reveal His identity to Joshua and to give Joshua courage.

We see something similar in Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17. In verse 4, Jesus said to the Father, "I have glorified you on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." Here, we see Jesus used the past tense to speak of a future event; in this case, the cross. Just as Jericho's fall was sure in Joshua 6, so was Jesus' lifting up on the cross in John 17.

What sure promises of God do you need to rest in today?

Joshua 6:15-21

The Jericho account in the opening chapters of the Book of Joshua is full of faith, with Rahab's and Joshua's faith rising to the top. But we have to be careful not to miss another great example of faith: that of the Israelite soldiers. Here we see an army ready to go to war and likely full of a mixture of anticipation and nervousness. And yet, for six days, God had them take a stroll around their enemy's fortified city. Surely, this was frustrating for the Israelite soldiers. Perhaps even demoralizing as they had six good, long, close looks at their enemy's defenses. They could see the thickness and height of the city walls. They could appreciate the size of the city they walked around. Perhaps they even saw and heard the enemy troops as well.

Then, finally, on the seventh day, they were called to action—although it was not the action a soldier would expect. It must not have made much sense to the Israelite soldiers. It must have been frustrating. And yet, they did exactly what God had called them to do—in obedience and in faith. Sometimes God calls us to act in faith; at other times, like here, He calls on us not to act, in faith.

Consider a time in your life when God's plan was simply to move. How willing were you to follow His simple instruction? Why?

Joshua 6:22-27

The battle was over. The once thriving, formidable city of Jericho was now a smoldering mound of ruins. But Joshua wasn't done with Jericho just yet. It wasn't enough that the city was destroyed, he cursed the pile of ruins declaring that anyone who attempted to rebuild it would suffer greatly. This was not just an end for Jericho—it was to be *the end*.

But the end of Jericho was also a beginning for Rahab and her family. And in the same way, Rahab's beginning was not just a beginning, it was *the beginning*. Her old self was as dead as the city she was leaving behind, and she was now part of God's people. Her faith in God had given her a new life. Her life was changed forever in this one event.

We see here a word picture of the power of God to change us by grace through faith. When we trust in Christ, our old self is put to death and we have been giving new life in Christ.

How do you tend to live as your old, dead self at times? Why? How do you fail to live as your new self at times? Why?