

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Adult Sunday School Lesson

9.10.2023

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Rahab and the Spies

## Joshua 2: 3 – 9, 15 – 16, 22 – 24

Do we have the faith to pursue with confidence the promises of God? Everyday we choose to put our trust in something which usually pertains to something in the sense of the life that we live in the world. For example, we are confident that our car will get us work, or that we have clothes to wear, or that we have food to eat, however these are just temporary things that we choose to allow to manipulate our time with God, but God wants us to spend time making choices in those things which have eternal value. For some, it may be very hard to fully put our trust in the promises of God. This is why that God gives unto us many examples throughout his word, examples of the blessings of Gods fulfilled promises. At times, we will encounter doubts and fears, but when this happens, we must turn to God in the midst of our unbelief, and ask God for help, for we do not have to fear, for God will keep his promises unto us.

**Deuteronomy 31: 8,....**the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee, he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee, fear not, neither be dismayed....

Moses led the children of Israel forty years, but when it came time to remind them of the covenant that God had made with them, a covenant to choose life over death, and blessing over curses, Moses doubted, and because of his disobedience he was not permitted to enter into the promised land. But, before God took him, the Lord gave unto him an encouraging promise, a promise that is true even unto the church today, and that promise is that the Lord will bless our faithfulness, but he also promises that he will punish our unfaithfulness. Therefore, we have been promised rewards, and we have been promised loss of rewards when we through disobedience doubt the truth of Gods word. No matter what we go through in life, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit, who is our comforter, the one who has promised to guide us into all truth, and to help us to find mercy and grace in our time of need.

**Joshua 2: 3 – 9**,....the king of Jericho....unto Rahab, saying, bring forth the men....which are entered into thine house....the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said....I wist not where they were....it came to pass....when it was dark....whither the men went I wot not....but she had brought them up to the roof....and hid them....the men pursued after them....she said unto the men, I know the Lord hath given you the Land....and that all the inhabitants....faint because of you....

AS Christians, we base our faith on the promises of Gods word. None of us have physically seen the mighty deeds which God preformed in the Old Testament times, but we read, study, and meditate on his word and believe. This means that not only do we have faith, but we act upon that faith, through our obedience to his promises. Our journey of faith begins by hearing, and then through obedience to his word we exercise our faith, through our willingness, and desire, to follow after the truth of that word. Even immature faith can be true faith when pursued through the obedience of God's word.

**James 2: 25 – 26**,....was not Rahab the harlot justified by works....for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also....

Through out the word of God, we learn the importance of faith, and we learn the importance of works. While it is true that we are saved by faith alone, and we are justified in the eyes of God by our faith, which is referring to our salvation, James tells us that as we continue in our life in Christ, then God justifies us in the eyes of humanity by our works in him. Therefore, we are saved by faith, but good works come by that faith. We are not saved by our works, but we are saved to do works. Now, Rahab would have been one that trusted in God long before the spies entered into Jericho, and contrary to what some may teach, her good works of protecting the spies did not save her, but her good works came from the faith that she already had acquired in God. Therefore, her good works were perfected by the faith which she had in God, and it resulted in spiritual growth. A believer, who is not carrying out good works is not applying the truth of God's word to their life. They are not walking in spirit and in truth, and therefore are living a fruitless life in Christ. God, through our salvation, began a good work within us, which means as Christians, we are Gods workmanship, and we have been made alive in Christ, by faith.

**Philippians 1: 6,....**being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ....

It is Gods desire that each one be continuously changed from one state of glory to the next. This starts with justification, which is the beginning of our state of sanctification, and then onto our eternal state of being glorified in Christ.

**Romans 8: 30,....**moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called, them he also justified, and whom he justified, them he also glorified....

God alone started the work in our life, which came unto us by faith believing, and only God can continue his work of sanctification during our life here upon earth, and he alone can furnish the good works which he started when we are declared glorified in his righteousness.

**Galatians 2: 16,....**knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by works of the law, for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified....

God alone can carry out the good works that he has prepared for us to do, and we can only do those good works if we are living a life that is in submission to him. Good works are only carried out through the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, which means that we remain in the fellowship of the Father, as we grow in his grace.

**Galatians 2: 20,....**I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

It is only when we give up trying to achieve righteousness on our own and accept the righteousness of God by faith in Christ that we have truly begin living for God. We are empowered by Christ to live a life that is pleasing unto God the Father. This means that our commitment, which is our dedication to the service of the Lord, this commitment will overcome all selfishness, which ties us to our worldly desires, including those worldly relationships that distract us from our service unto the Lord. This means that we have now taken up our cross to follow Christ.

**Matthew 16: 24,....** then Jesus said unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me....

**Joshua 2: 15 – 16, 22 – 24,....** she let them down by a cord through the window....she said....get you to the mountain....hide yourselves....the two men returned....and came to Joshua....and told him all things....they said....truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land....

As Christians, we must learn to take God at his word. The reality is that the only way that we gain anything spiritual in our life in Christ is if God gives it unto us. God owns all things, which means that anything we will ever receive, anything that we will ever have, is given unto us by God. Therefore, we are to take God at his word, in all that he is calling unto us to do, because it is according to his word, through the guidance of his spirit, that he gives unto us the boldness, without fear, but with humility, to trust in him completely.

**Joshua 2: 24,....** truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land....

Gods desire, which as Christians, becomes our desire, and that would be that all would come to know and to accept the love of God, and his saving grace. Since God has delivered unto the church all the land, then the possibility of those who can be reached with the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ is unlimited. God has placed each one where he wants us to be so that he can use us in his purpose and plan for his glory, but do we have the faith to confidently pursue his promises in our lives.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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