



Empowering People to Change the World

Book of Joshua: Courage to Possess the Promises of God

Crossing the Jordan

Josh Floyd

Joshua 3

Crossing the Jordan

Joshua 2:15-3:17

Vs. 15-20

- Rahab has no idea what is going on...but this scarlet cord will be the royal bloodline to the greatest King of Israel's history.
 - This scarlet cord will be the royal bloodline to another King who will come into the world, die for the sins of the world, and become our Savior.
 - This is the scarlet line that symbolizes the blood that ran down the arms and legs of our Savior, Jesus.
 - This is the scarlet line that takes away all of your sins.
 - This is the scarlet line that, though the walls of this world may crumble, will continue to stand.
- Trust the scarlet line!

Romans 5:8-11

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." (Romans 5:8-11)

- They don't say, "hang this scarlet cord...and pray daily. Hang this scarlet cord...and be a good girl..." Trust the scarlet cord. It is enough

- It is illogical, but it is faith
- The spies don't even know what is going to happen, but they tell her to trust in the scarlet cord.
- Think about her parents. "A scarlet rope? Yeah, right..."
 - Ex. It's the same today when you share your faith with people; they laugh, they mock. "You mean all I have to do is trust in the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross and all my sins will be taken away? No way!" Yes, it is true.

James 2:25

"In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?" (James 2:25, New International Version)

- Think about this woman's faith!

Hebrews 11:31

"By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient." (Hebrews 11:31, from New International Version)

- She was expecting them.
- When you study the great men and women of the faith: "consider Abraham, Moses, Noah, Sarah..." and lastly they mention Rahab, like she is the capstone of this great faith.
- She is like the lowest person in society, yet God, when he sees faith, God will preserve you

- Our faith is just as simple as Rahab's. Put your faith in the Scarlet Cord, the death of Christ, and God will save you too!
- Our homes are built on a wall, the wall of America. And this wall will someday crumble. This great wall is scheduled to crumble, but God will preserve you! God doesn't want us trusting in democracy, He wants us trusting in Him.
- All of us are like Rahab: we have sold our lives to money, education, success...and God will constantly reach out to you.

Joshua 2:18

“Unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.” (Joshua 2:18, from New International Version)

- God cares about families. As you begin to pray and seek God for your family, God will save your family...
- *Allen Redpath* writes of a woman who has a plaque over the sink that says “Divine Service rendered 3 times daily.”
 - Ex. Even as our ministry and the ministries of this church expand, I must constantly remind myself that my greatest service is to my own wife and children. I want to stand before the Lord with my wife and kids.
- God loves to use women to change the world!
 - Ex. Lots of women are being ripped off today. “Oh, you just work at home?” What work could be more powerful and significant than this? God so uses women! Sarah as the mother of a nation! Esther will be mightily used!
 - Almost every great leader in the Bible begins with Mom...Sarah, Rachel, midwives, Mary...

- *Richard Halverson*, former Chaplain to the Senate, said, "There is no record in the gospels of any woman opposing Jesus." We read of a lot of men who did, but no women. God is again using a woman, Rahab.

Vs. 21

- "According to your words, so be it." What a faith in God's Word!
- You know that's all we have! God's Word!
- Put your finger on the promise from God and believe it!

Vs. 22-24

- The spies are encouraged because of their conversation with Rahab. The people of the land are melting before us!
- Remember what she said,

Joshua 2:11

"When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." (Joshua 2:11, from New International Version)

- This is a remarkable story. They don't report any military strategic situation, but they talk about a believer they have met.
- This is your strategy!! Satan and demons will melt if you will believe...

Matthew 1:1-6

*"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:
Abraham was the father of Isaac,*

*Isaac the father of Jacob,
 Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
 Perez the father of Hezron,
 Hezron the father of Ram,
 Ram the father of Amminadab,
 Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
 Nahshon the father of Salmon (who was a prince of Judah),
 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was **Rahab**,
 Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
 Obed the father of Jesse,
 and Jesse the father of King David.
 David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's
 wife..." (Matthew 1:1-6)*

- I meet Christians all the time who have been Christians all their lives, and yet they still carry this ongoing question of whether to really trust Christ with everything. Yet, God chronicles this woman who gave it all, and God saves her!! She marries a Prince of Judah, Salmon.
- 14th Great Grandmother of Jesus!
 - Ex. The Bible says, "He is not ashamed to be called our God." I think about how many of us are ashamed of Christ to be open about our faith, yet He is not ashamed of us. Don't you think it should be the other way around? Yet, He is not ashamed of us. It is written right here in the bloodline of Jesus.
- I am not ashamed of the people who come into this church. Many of you have stories: divorced, alcoholics, addictions... That is the story of God's love. **Not rehabilitation, but transformation.** I love it!
- If you don't know Christ personally, come up and get to know Him. Begin today. "I've worshipped other gods, I want to bow my knees to this God."

Joshua 3:1

- They've been looking at the river for three days, getting an eyeful before He speaks. One mile wide of swift waters! Over two million people...how are we going to cross? Do you ever feel that way? I can see the victory, I can read the promise, but look at these obstacles!
- What will my wife/husband say? What will my boss say? What about my future? Give up that? No way!

Vs. 2-4

- Very important. This generation has grown up in the wilderness. All their lives, they have followed a pillar of cloud by day and the fire by night. They have to learn how to follow an entirely different way.
- Don't look at the impossibilities; don't look at the circumstances; look at the Lord; look at the Word of God.
- They must follow by faith! This is so strange for them.
 - 40 years of boredom!
 - The same barrenness! The same cactuses!
 - They have never passed this way before!

Vs. 5

- What do you mean "sanctify yourselves"? What about sharpening swords? What about a strategy? What about getting spears ready? Put on your Speedos? Kung Fu moves?
- What would happen if the president did that? "We are about to go into war, I have asked the Congress to sanctify themselves, and I would like to ask the entire country to sanctify themselves."
- The ACLU would go nuts! But imagine that. There was some of that in 1991 with President Bush. He took Billy Graham with

him, and they prayed. They say there were 54,000 conversions among our military.

- Sanctify means “set apart.” Set apart for the Lord.

2 Chronicles 16:9

“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

- God is not looking for a great personality
- God is not looking for a person who has “influence”
- God is not looking for great talents
- God is looking for people who will walk with Him in holiness
- God is looking for a person who will be loyal to Him... “fully committed to Him”
- God will empower and uplift such a person!
- But I’m weak. God says, “My power is made perfect in your weakness.”
- I would hope that as God’s eyes go to and fro throughout Colorado Springs, that He might settle on The Road...

Vs. 6-8

- Imagine the people in Jericho... watching all of this! The pillar of fire stops... “Hey, maybe this god has left them.” Then they will see the waters pile up... “Uh, oh!”
- This is the presence of God! God’s presence is going to lead them.

- It is interesting that all of the people of Jericho have heard of Israel, yet only Rahab believes! All of the people heard.
 - Yet a prostitute believes!
 - Can you imagine: “You mean to tell me that I, who put the offering envelope in the offering every week, put stained glass in that church, and helped that priest with communion... you’re telling me that the prostitute you hung out with is going to heaven before me because she accepted Christ?”
- If you had told the inhabitants of Jericho that the only one coming out of this alive is that prostitute with the red rope hanging out her window, they would have said you are nuts. “We have double walls! They aren’t getting in here.”
- God beckons to our hearts. One person. How gracious our God is.

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, from New International Version)

- Maybe you know *about* Him, but you don't *really know* Him...

Vs. 9-10

- Everything has changed! Do you know how easy it is to fall into tradition?
- Ex. At The Road, we have some traditions, but I love it when God comes and changes things occasionally.
 - Joke: Someone once said the seven last words of the church are: “We’ve never done it that way before.”

- We get unsettled when things don't go a certain way! Think about the nation of Israel.
 - All they know is that every night they had a pillar of fire.
 - Every day, manna from heaven.
 - The manna is gone! The fire is gone! Everything has changed!
 - Spies from Jericho: "Hey, the manna stuff has stopped... Hey, the fire thing is gone... God has left them."
 - Joshua has to encourage them:
 - You may not see the signs and wonders
 - You may not see the manifestations
 - You may not feel His presence
 - But the reality of God's Word will lead them
 - "I will never leave you nor forsake you"
 - He is still there!

Psalms 23:4

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." (Psalms 23:4)

This is how you will know that I am with you...

Vs. 11-13

- Never once does Joshua draw attention to himself. Never once does Joshua try to use his personality or gifting as a leader to convince the people of anything! Joshua is humble.
- God uses men and women that are humble. Joshua is leading people past himself and toward God.

- God exalts the humble, and He will bring down those haughty in spirit.

Vs. 14-16

- Is this water really piling up? I mean, really piling up? If so, then the last people coming across may be getting a little bit worried! I mean, around two million people amounts to about eight hours of crossing. That means eight hours of piling up!!
- Think about the people in the back... this is Hoover Dam without the dam! These people are moving really quickly...

Vs. 17

- This is nothing short of a miracle. There is no explanation except that God did a miracle.
- God loves to part rivers, overflowing rivers in our lives. The Jordan River is a muddy river! I have been baptized there!
- But God dried up the Jordan River! God can dry up the rivers that are blocking the blessings in your life!
- What is holding you back? What is stopping you from coming into the land and the promises God has for you?
- Today, I am calling you from the east side of the river to the west. What is west is best, what is east is least!
- Come over to God's best! Come over!!
- What is hindering you?
 - Relationships?
 - Addictions?
 - Job security?
 - Spouse?
 - Fear of what God will do to you?

Closing Prayer