

Saving Faith

"Faith Forward" series- Part 03

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: What was the strongest obstacle for you in putting your faith in Christ as your Savior?

Let's get on the same page -

John Gardner wrote [source unknown], *"We are faced with a series of great opportunities—brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."* In the story of Israel's Exodus from Egypt to the Promise Land, the nation faced a number of "insoluble problems". Briefly make a list of the obstacles to deliverance that they faced in 42 years and how they were solved (Example: Pharaoh would not let the people go).

In a recent lesson, Pastor Brandon spoke about the *"Crazy Faith"* of Joshua as he led Israel on a 7-day march around the walls of Jericho. Today, let us look on the other side of the Jericho Wall and observe the new-found faith of a heathen woman whose saving faith would spare her life and the life of her family.

Book: Joshua 2:1-18

Jos 2:1 Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night.

Jos 2:2 But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land."

Jos 2:3 So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land."

Jos 2:4 Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from."

Jos 2:5 They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them."

Jos 2:6 (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.)

Jos 2:7 So the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut.

Jos 2:8 Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them.

Jos 2:9 "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror."

Jos 2:10 For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed.

Jos 2:11 No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

Jos 2:12 "Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that

Jos 2:13 when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families."

Jos 2:14 "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the LORD gives us the land."

Jos 2:15 Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window.

Jos 2:16 "Escape to the hill country," she told them. "Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way."

Jos 2:17 Before they left, the men told her, "We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions."

Jos 2:18 When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house.

Let's get into the Word:

Can you speculate why the spies would seek to spend the night at the home of a prostitute?

What reasons did Rahab give for hiding the spies?

What did God use in Rahab's life to change her beliefs about Him as God?

Why might Rahab be a poor candidate for salvation? What makes her a good candidate for receiving grace?

Why doesn't God grant instant deliverance from our problems? Why do some problems linger on for years?

How can we know God's will in specific problem situations?

How can we get faith when we lack faith? Where is the heart of the problem of unbelief?

Must sinners clean up their lives before they can be saved? Where does repentance fit into the process?

Let's get real (with self!)

What disguised opportunities do you face today?

How can you exercise great (crazy) faith in this opportunity?