

Lesson 10

Hebrews 11:30-31 ~ Joshua and Rahab

Our gallery tour now brings us to the edge of the Jordan River where we find the children of Israel about to embark on a new venture of faith ... the Promised Land. As we study this spiritual portrait we find two vibrant examples of living faith. Hebrews 11:30-31 and Joshua 6 give us the details of their faith.



A Facet of the Past...

1. Hebrews 11:30 crosses a threshold in the history of the Israelites. The old, rebellious generation is left behind, buried in the wilderness. The new generations is ready to conquer and claim the land. At this critical juncture, what role did Joshua play?

2. As the Israelites cross over God has special instruction for their leader. Write out God's command to Joshua here:

(Joshua 1:6-9)

- a. Why do you think God repeats His command "be strong and courageous" so many times?

- b. In what area of your life do you need this command to be strong and courageous?

- c. Can you think of a biblical example of one whose courage was strengthened through faith **OR** one whose courage collapsed because of a lack of faith? What was the result of their faith or lack of it?

3. Courage is a rare commodity but a necessity when seeking to live a life of faith. In the following scriptures briefly describe the situation Joshua faced and the courage and faith it took to handle it.

Verse	Situation	Joshua's faith
Num. 13:16-14:10		
Joshua 5:13-15		
Joshua 7:1- 19		
Joshua 10:12-15		

4. Do you think the Israelites assumed that conquering the Promised Land would be easier than it was?
- a. What "promised lands" have you had that were harder to occupy than you anticipated?
 - b. Has your courage ever collapsed in the midst of a trying situation? If so, what was the result?
5. As we move to Hebrews 11:31, we meet an unlikely candidate for this gallery of faith, one that has become a trophy of God's grace. Who was Rahab and where did she live?
- a. Why is Rahab's inclusion in the Hebrew 11 "hall of faith" somewhat surprising?
 - b. The city of Jericho was very wicked and pagan. We are told that the people perished for one reason: they did not believe God. Do you think Rahab always stood out the way she does in Joshua 6?
 - c. Briefly describe the role she played in the success of the Israelites.

The Framework of Life...

6. Let's look at the incident that brought the faith of two opposite people together. Scholars note that Jericho's walls were up to 25 ft. high and 20 ft. thick and so the conquest of this city was considered impossible. Describe how you think the Israelites might have felt when faced with such a barrier.
- a. What was God's solution to the difficulty the walls of Jericho presented?

 - b. From the following list of characteristics, try to place them in order of importance from greatest to least in context of this episode for those involved.

obedience trust faith courage confidence

 - c. Consider the faith it required for these military men to follow the instructions they were given. They passed the test of faith by obeying the Lord and the outcome was a great miracle. How does their example speak to you?

Personal

Are you experiencing difficulties that seem to be as impenetrable as the walls of Jericho?

What would faith ask of you in your circumstance?

Is there any part of the situation that would require an act of obedience?

Keep in mind as you pray that God is always faithful to answer as we submit to His will.



7. It is often easier to fight than to have faith. If you fight, even if you lose, you have a certain respect from the world. Why does faith always look foolish in the eyes of the world?
 - a. Are there other incidents in the Bible where someone or something was considered “foolish” to the world in order to complete God’s plan?

Fluctuations of Faith...

8. When the Commander of the Lord first came to Joshua (Joshua 5: 13) and gave him the instructions concerning Jericho what might have been the temptation for Joshua?
 - a. Joshua then had to convey these directions to the “men of war.” Do you think Joshua may have considered amending the instructions to make them seem a little more reasonable?
 - b. What does it say about Joshua and his relationship with these men that they obeyed him without question?
9. Rahab lied and concealed the spies from certain death. What do you think of her lie apparently being condoned in the Bible?

The Finality of His Life...

10. Compare Hebrews 11: 31 and Matthew 1:5. What do you think of a prostitute (Rahab) being included in the Hall of Faith and the lineage of the Messiah?
 - a. Rahab was honored because of her faith “when she had received the spies in peace.” Is there an application for your own life you can draw from her example?

11. Have you ever struggled with the thought that your past would keep you from being useful to God?

a. How has this example of Rahab encouraged you?

12. Based on the following Scriptures, who gave up what in faith and what was the result?

1 Samuel 1:9-22, 26-28 _____ gave up _____.

Result:

Luke 7:36-39, 44-50 _____ gave up _____.

Result:

John 6:5-11 _____ gave up _____.

Result:

Genesis 22:1-18 _____ gave up _____.

Result:

Joshua 2:1-15; Joshua 6:25 _____ gave up _____.

Result:

