

BATTLES BEFORE BLESSINGS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Scriptures from Christian Standard Version unless noted

THE FIRST STEP

God's Process...

1. Deliverance (salvation)
2. Development (spiritual growth)
3. Destiny (God's purpose and blessings)

KEY POINT:

No matter how bad your past, God can use you in mighty ways if you'll just take a first step.

"...if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

Matthew 17:20 (NLT)

"Go and scout the land, especially Jericho."

Joshua 2:1

"...some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land." Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land."

Joshua 2:2-3

But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them... "Yes, the men did come to me, but I didn't know where they were from. At nightfall, when the city gate was about to close, the men went out, and I don't know where they were going."

Joshua 2:4-5

"Chase after them quickly, and you can catch up with them!" But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the stalks of flax that she had arranged on the roof.

Joshua 2:5-6

KEY QUESTION:

When is it OK to lie?

"I know that the Lord has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you. 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 Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below."

Joshua 2:9-11

“...for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.”

Joshua 2:11

“Now please swear to me by the Lord that you will also show kindness to my father’s family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.” The men answered her, “We will give our lives for yours. If you don’t report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the Lord gives us the land.”

Joshua 2:12-14

No matter how bad your past, God can use you in mighty ways if you’ll just take a first step.

...she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city.

Joshua 2:15

“Go to the hill country so that the men pursuing you won’t find you,” she said to them. “Hide there for three days until they return; afterward, go on your way.” The men said to her, “We will be free from this oath you made us swear, unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father’s family into your house. If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his death will be his own fault, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his death will be our fault.”

Joshua 2:16-19

“Let it be as you say,” she replied, and she sent them away... So the two men went into the hill country and stayed there three days until the pursuers had returned. They searched all along the way, but did not find them. Then the men returned, came down from the hill country, and crossed the Jordan. They went to Joshua son of Nun and reported everything that had happened to them. They told Joshua, “The Lord has handed over the entire land to us. Everyone who lives in the land is also panicking because of us.”

Joshua 2:21-24

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?... In the same way, wasn’t Rahab the prostitute also justified by works in receiving the messengers and sending them out by a different route?

James 2:14, 25

Two kinds of justification:

- **Justification by faith – faith that forgives your sins and saves you for heaven**
- **Justification by works – actions that save you here on earth and fulfill God’s purposes**

Joshua started early the next morning and left the Acacia Grove with all the Israelites. They went as far as the Jordan and stayed there before crossing. After three days the officers went through the camp and commanded the people, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God carried by the Levitical priests, you are to break camp and follow it.”

Joshua 3:1-3

“Consecrate yourselves, because the Lord will do wonders among you tomorrow.”

Joshua 3:5

“Carry the ark of the covenant and go on ahead of the people.” So they carried the ark of the covenant and went ahead of them. The Lord spoke to Joshua: “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so they will know that I will be with you just as I was with Moses. Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant: When you reach the edge of the water, stand in the Jordan.” Then Joshua told the Israelites, “Come closer and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” He said, “You will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly dispossess before you the Canaanites, Hethites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites...”

Joshua 3:6-10

If you take that first action step, God is going to do mighty things...

*** So that you know He is Alive**

*** So that you know He is Among you.**

“...the living God is among you.”

Joshua 3:10

“...when the ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth goes ahead of you into the Jordan... choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. When the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of the whole earth, come to rest in the Jordan’s water, its water will be cut off. The water flowing downstream will stand up in a mass.”

Joshua 3:11-13

Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan, their feet touched the water at its edge and the water flowing downstream stood still, rising up in a mass... and the people crossed opposite Jericho.

Joshua 3:15-16

The priests carrying the ark of the Lord’s covenant stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed on dry ground until the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

Joshua 3:17

What is your biggest struggle right now?

Where are you stuck in your spiritual life?

Where do you need God to show up in a mighty way?