

Day 30

- As I said yesterday, to have a better understanding of the depth of God's intricate weaving and how He raises people up, we need to go back to the battle of Jericho in the book of Joshua.
- The book of Joshua opens up after the death of Moses, the deliverer of the Tribes of Israel out of captivity from Egypt — the same Moses that faced off Pharaoh with the 10 plagues — the same Moses who God used to part the Red Sea — the same Moses who led a rather complaining bunch of Israelites around the wilderness for 40 years.
 - I'm not going deep into this, but it needs to be mentioned here — Moses sent 12 spies into the Promised Land to check it out and report back. Out of the 12, only 2 came back with reports of, we've got this, let's go in and take the land God has given to us — Those two spies were Joshua and Caleb — of which, they were the only two spies who were given the privilege to enter the Promised Land 40 years later; the rest of the fear riddled, whiny spies died in the wilderness.
 - So, when Joshua was given the place of leader of the Tribes of Israel, and it was his turn to send spies into the land, guess how many spies he sent? Yep! You guessed it — 2.
 - Joshua, I'm sure through prayer to the LORD, handpicked those two spies to enter the Promised Land and look it over, especially the fortified city of Jericho. One of those spies was most likely Salmon (or Salma depending on your Bible translation), the father of Boaz. Why do I believe one of the spies was Salmon? Well, let's look at the account of the two spies in the city of Jericho, and I believe you will see my reasoning.
 - So, the two spies, after entering Jericho to search out its weak points, stayed with a prostitute named Rahab.
- Side note: I have a novel I have yet to complete on the story of Rahab — which sheds light onto why she was probably working as a prostitute and to why she was probably under the surveillance of the King of Jericho. But, I will stay solely with scripture here.
 - "The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." Joshua 2:2-3.
 - Now, everyone in the whole region, no matter how vast it was, knew exactly who the Israelites were. There may not have been any social media, nor texting abilities in that time of history, but believe me, when God parted the Red Sea, allowing His people to cross and escape Pharaoh of Egypt, then closed it on Pharaoh's army and drowned the army and the horses — yeah, the news had spread — like wild fire!
 - The forty years the Israelites were in the wilderness, fear had been struck in the people of the land. There God had shown Himself mighty over and over and over again. To have those twelve Tribes on the other side of the Jordan, not that far from your city, it wasn't going to be good for you.
 - Rahab had hidden the two spies under stalks of flax on the roof of her house, which was part of the city wall. When the king's men demanded she send out the spies, she answered, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly." Joshua 2:4-5.
 - The spies then learned from Rahab that everyone had heard of the Red Sea, they knew of the LORD's favor on Israel, and when they heard they had come to the other side of the Jordan, the peoples' hearts were melting in fear.

- Rahab made a pact with the two spies; they promised her deliverance from the coming destruction of Jericho, for her and her family, as long as they were all inside her house, and that she left the scarlet cord tied in the window she had lowered them through to safety outside the city wall. If she followed their instructions and did not tell of them or their whereabouts, Rahab and her family would be saved.
 - Rahab was the only one of the whole city, who believed in the LORD — how do we know? Well, she was saved — her family was saved with her only through her, not because of their merit. She said to the two spies, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us...for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” Joshua 2:8-11.
 - This woman longed to be rescued by the LORD God Himself; she willingly put her life on the line to protect these men because she recognized in them the blessing and favor of the LORD, and she feared the LORD and hoped for His deliverance.
 - God didn't just rescue her from the destruction of Jericho that day; He brought her into the Tribe of Judah through marriage — marriage to a man named Salmon — a man I believe was definitely one of the spies that day — Why? Because the man who would go to his leader, Joshua, and ask for permission from him and from the LORD to marry a Canaanite woman who had also been a prostitute, had to be a man who had seen in her great courage and depth of passion for the LORD God of the Israelites. This man had to have known the amazing strength of character of the woman Rahab.
 - And to drive home just how great God's redemptive power is, Rahab is in the line of Jesus Christ; Rahab and Salman had their son Boaz, and through the care and love both of them must have poured into him; Boaz grew to be a man of great compassion; he had to have learned from his mother that God is a God who wants to redeem everyone, not matter the vileness of their birth and life. She had to have told her son stories and accounts of the abuse she had endured at the hands of heartless men, and how she cried out to the LORD God of Israel; and in her cry, He heard her and redeemed her. This is the same Boaz that noticed a young Moabite woman in his fields one day, a woman named Ruth.
 - Look how amazing our God is!! Everything He does is redemptive toward us. His desire for us is so great, we cannot even fathom a portion of it.
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- As we close today, I want to encourage you to read the rest of the account of Jericho in Joshua, and to read the whole book of Ruth. Tomorrow, we will take back up with the account of God's great redemption through Ruth and Boaz.
 - Be blessed and encouraged, knowing that our intricate God designed an amazing destiny for each one of us, and in that destiny is the great opportunity for a life changing relationship with Him. If a woman like Rahab could raise her eyes and voice to the heaven's to call on a God she had only heard about, to believe in His redemptive power, and to risk her life for two spies she did not know, we can call out to Jesus and ask Him to deliver us out of any situation we may find ourselves in — not matter the circumstances, His grace is always sufficient, and His love for us covers a multitude of sins. Call out to Him, He is only a breath away.