



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Crossing the Jordan River!

Lesson Text: Joshua 1-6

Focus Verses: Joshua 1:5-7 - ⁵There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Truth About Covenant: God walks in covenant with those who reverently fear Him.

Covenant Context: Beginning with the Book of Joshua, they record the children of Israel's continued pursuit of the Promised Land. Today's study of God's mercy to a Gentile named Rahab shows His willingness to extend His covenant beyond the Jews.

When the Almighty makes a promise, He extends His blessing to future generations. Part of God's promise was giving Israel an abundant, beautiful land they could call home. By installing Joshua as Moses' successor to lead Israel's new generation, God renewed His covenant promises to the descendants of those who had died in the wilderness, inviting the new generation into the same covenant with all its blessings and curses. To inherit the promises, Israel agreed to follow the covenant and their leader Joshua. Joshua 1:8 declares that the obedient Israelites would make their way prosperous and have good success by meditating on the Book of the Law.

The Word of God provides every generation the opportunity to choose. Although God guarantees He will remain steadfast in His covenant, He also requires obedience. Thankfully, the generation Joshua led had the correct mindset. Only one book can truly make all the difference and set people's hearts on seeking the right things in life: **God's Word**.

Like the Israelites, we must effectively respond to God's covenant. No matter our situation, we must make our own personal commitment to the covenant invitation the Lord extends to us. We must affirm our obedience to the Word of God—not merely with what we say, but with our hearts and minds fully devoted to the Lord. Obedience preserves the covenant. Without obedience, our relationship with the Lord suffers. Failing to obey will make us more like the faithless generation who died in the wilderness than their faithful offspring who conquered, inherited, and enjoyed the Promised Land.

Covenants often have an exclusionary nature. People exclude themselves from the plan and purpose of God rather than the Lord denying them access to His blessing. Rahab entered into a covenant relation with God, when she assisted the spies' escape by letting them down via a scarlet rope. She had saved their lives, and they were willing to save hers and her family. This scarlet rope represented inclusivity. The spies entered a covenant with Rahab, extending God's mercy outside the Israelite community. Rahab sought God's mercy, and her faith wrote her into the story of Jesus' own lineage. Rahab, the harlot of Jericho created a legacy that exceeded her wildest dreams.

When we enter into a relation with God, we join a group known as the church that is both exclusive and inclusive. The church is exclusive because God's covenant demands obedience to the plan of salvation in Acts 2:38. The church is inclusive because the promise is to anyone who will follow Jesus and take up the cross (Mark 8:34; Acts 2:39).

Before Israel could wage war with Jericho, they had to cross the flooded Jordan River. The Lord parted the waters of the Jordan River, and Israel once again marched through the water on their way toward the Promised Land. The Lord had commissioned a specific, albeit unusual, plan for victory (Joshua 6). The strategy must have seemed a bit absurd. After they had marched for six days and seven times on the seventh, the impossible happened: the Lord felled the tall, thick walls of Jericho. Jericho was prepared, but the Lord thwarted every one of their strategic advantages because the Israelites obeyed. On many occasions, God will call on us to follow a specific, divinely orchestrated plan that at first glance may not seem to make much sense. In these instances, we need to rely on God, not on us.