**Greater Than All - wk 19 – Faith Road Trip – Pt 6**

**We are on a road trip of faith - trusting God to lead the way.**

**Don’t give up but grow up! True faith perseveres.**

**Hebrews 11:1 Now faith (Trust in God) is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. (Hall of Faith!) 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God…**

**Biblical Faith - is a supernatural trust and assurance in what God says even if you don’t see it or understand it.**

**Not a force, positive thinking, absence of fear / doubt.**

**Faith is Trusting God enough to do what he says.**

**Heb 11 highlight reels. Assumption that readers know the stories – you might. But we are taking the time to see why…**

**(Today 2 people who after Moses…) Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. 31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. (2 verses - 2 people – one major event.)**

**JOSHUA = Yahshua = Savior – “Yahweh Saves” - Same name as Jesus.**

**Prophet / warrior – a young man one of two out of two million who trusted that God could lead them to victory in the promise land. Every person except for Joshua and Caleb – died in the desert.**

**Joshua served - walked with Moses almost 24/7 – slept in the Tent of meeting, accompanied Moses on Mt. Sinai, heard God’s voice.**

**Miraculously crossed the Jordan River - Much like the Red Sea, the Jordan river parted for them. Cleansing water – type of baptism.**

**Crossed over and had circumcision party - Symbol of setting a part of the heart - cutting away of past and sin. Today = sanctification.**

**\*\* They then faced their first resistance. Jericho – massive, fortified walled city. What now?**

**The day Joshua meets Joshua (Jesus)**

**Joshua 5:13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” 14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”**

**The LORD does not pick sides – He is for those who trust and obey his word. He honors who he honors. God is in control.**

**So many want us to pick a side (Politics, mandates, vaccines) Who side is the Lord on? Neither. Only side to pick is the LORD’s side, by being obedient to this word. Who’s on the Lord’s side today?**

**“I am not about a particular ethic group of people - I am for all people who will by faith follow me.” Are you one of them?**

**Josh 5:14b Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” 15 The commander of the Lord’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. (Joshua’s burning bush moment)**

**A Christophany – OT Jesus Christ appearance (Col 2:9 - For in Christ all the fullness of God lives in bodily form)**

**The LORD then gives Joshua this instruction (Joshua 5-6)**

* **Day 1-6: march around Jericho 1X a day with the Ark of God.**

**With 7 priests with ram horns.**

* **Day 7: march around 7X – with priests blowing the trumpets.**

**On the last time around – have a long blast – and loudly shout!!**

 **And the city walls will collapse – and you will go straight in.**

**No turning back. No reopening the Jordan. God put them in a place to show faith. It was do it God’s way or run. No retreat. Do or die.**

**The walls were big, God is bigger! You might have a wall or two – but we have the God of the universe.**

**So… they did it, just as Jesus instructed – led by the Ark (the HS) - they followed the odd instructions - by faith.**

**Joshua 6:15 On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. 16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! / 20 When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.**

**By faith Joshua and the people saw the walls of Jericho fall**

**They trusted God’s word even though it seemed odd & counterproductive**

**Hebrews 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. (They did just as the LORD said)**

**They did not see how it was possible, strange, not a good use of time or resources - but God said it and they did it. They trusted God enough to do what he said even though they did not see it or understand it.**

**They trusted God’s word even though it took time and patience**

**God calls us to a bold, daring, obedient, patient faith.**

**They did what God said and waited in obedience.**

**When is God going to come through? How is this helping? We don’t like the wait – but that is where faith is revealed as genuine.**

* **God is more interested in patient obedience than a quick fix**

**God did not need to do it that way – could have just fallen. God shows himself in our faithful obedience - especially if we don’t understand it.**

**It must have looked silly. Why 7X (why not 3?)**

**(6 = man’s number, falling short) (7 = perfection)**

**A reason is - Faith that is tested is found to be genuine. Faith is precious when it endures. 1 Peter 1:7 – trials prove the genuine of our faith.**

**Problem is – we only march around 3X and expect the wall to come down. We don’t actually obey all the word of God – we pick what we like – and wonder why our life is still falling part.**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).**

**Keep marching… no matter how tired… no matter the walls or odds… This is the message of Hebrews, don’t give up - by faith keep walking!**

**The spiritual battle of simple obedience, praise, and waiting**

**Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!**

* **It was and always is the Lord who does the work to save us**

**They did not bring the victory - it was already given to them. God was displaying their faith to the world – it was done.**

**By faith we trust the finished work of the cross.**

**Heb 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. (How does Rahab work into this?)**

**RAHAB (we need to go back before the events of the walls)**

**2 spies checked out Jericho before they went in. (Joshua 2) The king heard they were coming and tries to kill them. They found refuge in a harlot’s house.**

**Why there? Would not arouse suspicion for strangers - Possibly first to come thru her door without an indecent intent.**

**Canaanite / Amorite (pagan) Prostitute woman – gets paid for sexual encounters - paid adulterer. Considered the lowest.**

**When enemy soldiers came looking for them – she hid them.**

**Later that night there was a roof top talk about the LORD.**

**Joshua 2:11 When we heard of it, (that you all were coming) our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. (God of the universe!)**

**The God of Abe, Issacs, Jacob is the one true and living God.**

**This is her declaration of faith – moments earlier – I know He led you thru Red Sea (40 yrs ago), and that the Lord gave you this land, and has fought with you along the way.**

**12 “Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”**

**14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the Lord gives us the land.” 15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. 17 Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us 18 unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet rope in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. (Her windows faced out the city walls - How many men climbed out that window? Once a way to cover her sin - will soon to be a picture of how Christ recues us from our sin)**

**Anyone in the house will be saved. They had to trust that the rope would work. Instead of fighting and trying to defend and save their own life, they had to trust in the red rope.**

**Unless you tie this red rope out of the window - you will die. When we see the red thread - you will live!**

**As we read already - it happened - they circled – they blew and shouted on the 7th day - walls fell - they ran in… and what did they see?**

**Joshua 6:16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! 17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. (that was her faith at work)**

**22 Joshua said (Yahshua said) to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” 23 So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel. (a brand new position – saved)**

**24 Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord’s house. 25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho - and she lives among the Israelites to this day.**

**By faith Rahab did not perish**

**She trusted God to save and redeem her**

**She risked her life to protect them and trusted Yahweh. Aligning herself w/ the people of God, willing to leave beliefs to follow LORD.**

**Her faith in the LORD expressed by displaying the scarlet rope and her repentance was shown by her leaving her old life.**

**Notice - names of the 2 spies are never mentioned – only Rahab’s. The focus is on the redemption of Rahab.**

**Her life was not perfect, but she had saving faith. She did not let her past keep her from GOD. God saved her - despite her sinful life – God gave her hope! He can do this for you too.**

**God used her to rescue and inspire a nation.**

**A pagan, Canaanite, prostitute – who had faith in Yahweh.**

**Welcomed into the family of Israel. Married Salmon (tribe of Judah) Has a son named is the Boaz. The Kinsmen redeemer of Ruth (a pagan foreigner looking for help) The great grandmother of King David.**

**28 Gens later = Jesus - a direct descendant of Rahab**

**The scarlet thread of redemption – That rope was a sign of salvation - that follows all the way to Jesus.**

**2 Verses – 2 People – 2 major truths**

1. **The LORD is Holy and will judge all wickedness and idolatry**

**Heb 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.**

**This was God’s judgment on a disobedient and wicked people**

**God said years earlier – they would be judged and driven out.**

**Guilty of human sacrifices, brutality, torture, extreme sexual depravity, occult. (Deut 9, 18, Lev 18) like land controlled by ISIS.**

**\*\* Big arch of Hebrews! This still applies today with the world and us. God is Holy we are not. (Ex 15:11) We are sinners (Rom 3:23) born dead in sin (Ps 51:5) and already condemned (John 3:18) We need a savior – without ONE – we face judgement before a Holy God (2 Cor 5:10)**

**2 Thessalonians 1:5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering - 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence (face = goodness) of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.**

**The Lord is Holy and will judge all wickedness and idolatry**

* **The LORD is the faithful merciful redeemer**

**Heb 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab… was not killed…**

**We see the Lord keeps His word and saves those with faith.**

**Without faith in the LORD – the scarlet rope – we will be judged. But Jesus is our scarlet rope- there is no escape and rescue without Him**

**The amazing scarlet rope of redemption – God’s grace.**

**Know this -**

**God saves the qualified – Like Joshua (best resume of them all)**

**God saves the unqualified – Like Rahab (pagan Canaanite prostitute)**

**Maybe you’re at the end of your rope today**

**Three things about that scarlet rope: Jesus the rope**

**1. Is strong enough to hold you - strong enough to hold them**

* **Jesus shed blood is strong enough to forgive any sin**

**2. Is long enough to reach you - long enough to reach safety**

* **Jesus the rope is long enough to reach you, you’re not too far**

**3. You must grab a hold of it by faith - they had to grab a hold of it by faith**

* **By faith we must receive Christ rescue rope of grace**
* **Only one way Rahab was saved - the scarlet thread**

**Only one rope, only one way (Acts 4:12) "salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"**