

Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho

Joshua 2:1-24

As Joshua prepared to send spies into the Promised Land, no doubt he remembered the fiasco of 40 years earlier when Moses sent a large group of spies into the land. This time Joshua sent only two and gave them a very specific mission: Investigate Jericho. He sent them “secretly,” not wanting the Canaanites to know what they were doing and probably also to protect the Israelites from the distressful result of the first spy mission.

It may seem suspicious that the first place the spies went was to the home of a prostitute. However, it’s likely that this was a place where gossip would abound. In addition, the word most often translated “prostitute” can just as accurately be translated “innkeeper.” Either way, it was a place where the spies were able to hear and gauge how the people of Jericho felt about the Israelites who were camped just across the Jordan River.

Rahab, though she lied about hiding the spies in her house, had apparently become a believer in God through what she had heard about the Israelites’ experiences and conquests. She hid the men at great personal risk. She was commended for her strong faith in Hebrews 11:31. Note that God did not commend her for lying, but for acting in faith and hiding the spies. God blessed her for that faith.

The end of this story lies beyond the scope of today’s passage. During the victory over Jericho, Rahab and her family were indeed spared from death (Joshua 6:17). Moreover, the New Testament attests to her faithfulness and includes her in the line of King David and of Jesus (Matthew 1:5)!

Devotion for Leaders

The One Thing: A relationship with Jesus can give us confidence that miraculous things will happen. Remember, the Lord of the universe wants to guide and direct your life!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: Where would you be without Jesus in your life? Take a few moments to jot down the answer to that question. What miracles has God performed to bring you to the place where you are today? How did those miracles come about? What people were involved? What were the circumstances? Did you realize a miracle was taking place at the time? Rest in the truth that you have the same opportunities to be used in God’s miracles in the lives of others.