

First Baptist Church Merritt Island

Our Rescue Comes Through Faith

Hebrews 11:28-31

April 7th, 2019

Main Point

Our promised salvation from God is realized in our lives by His gracious power through our faith in Jesus. Hebrews 11 is a clear presentation of that fact.

Getting Started

Read Joshua 6:1-25 in preparation for today's study.

'Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus, shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him." So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord ." And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord ." And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout." So he caused the ark of the Lord to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp. Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord . And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets blew continually. And the second day they marched around the city once and returned into the camp. So they did for six days. On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it. But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the Lord; they shall go into the treasury of the Lord." So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city. Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword. But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her." So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father

and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel. And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord. But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. '

Joshua 6:1-25

Observation

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 11:29-31

Consider the story of the Israelites crossing the Red Sea, Joshua leading the Israelites to victory over Jericho and Rahab the prostitute escaping certain death. In all three stories, people faced impossible odds.

What did people in these stories do to appeal to God for help?

How did God intervene on their behalf?

What was the outcome of these stories for the people involved?

What do we learn about God from all three stories? How do we see his glory and character on display?

How do these stories demonstrate incredible faith in the face of insurmountable odds?

Application

Occasionally, believers will encounter barriers to their faith that seem insurmountable. What seems to be imminent doom turns into victory through faith in God's ability to save. Describe a time when you encountered an impossible situation in which there appeared to be no way out. *How did you respond at first? What weakness or short coming did this situation expose in your life? How did God intervene? What did you learn about God from facing this difficulty in your life? What did you learn about yourself? Ask God to strengthen your faith in his gracious power to save!*

Read and reflect on Psalm 94:17-19 in light of today's lesson:

' If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O Lord, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.'

Psalms 94:17-19

1. Acknowledge your own weaknesses and inadequacies when they confront you.
2. Call on God when you think you are losing your grip or footing.
3. Allow Him to console you with the truth of his word when you feel overwhelmed by the cares of your heart.

Prayer

Dear God, I turn to you when I feel I'm losing my footing and can't scale the problems I face. Please strengthen my faith in you! Help me to turn to you first and fast when life gets impossible. I want to see your power and glory on display in and through me. Thank you for showing me your gracious power.

Commentary

11:28 By faith he kept the Passover. Moses celebrated Passover before seeing the deliverance it would bring (Exodus 12:1-32).

11:29 It took faith to walk through the Red Sea, with walls of water on each side, relying on God's promises (Exodus 14:1-4, 15-18).

11:30 As at Jericho, faith repeatedly caused the Israelites to follow God's commandment before seeing his promised victory (Joshua 6:1-21).

11:31 Before the destruction of Jericho, Rahab said, "I know that the Lord has given you the land...for the Lord your God, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath." As a Gentile and a sinner (prostitute), her faith was particularly remarkable.

Adapted from www.smallgroup.com