

## Two Spies Joshua 2

Last week we talked about Moses asking for a man to lead and how Joshua was a picture of Jesus the man God chose to be the head of the church. I think I was not quite clear on where we were headed in that message so just to reiterate: I see from the information in the New Testament, a church that had a lot of participation in worship. They realized the prophecies of the Spirit being poured out and having their hearts changed had been fulfilled in their lives. They shared what was fresh and alive to them of Jesus. No one speaker dominated even though there were people who had gifts of teaching/shepherding and prophecy and evangelism. The elders were held in equal regard as men whose lives qualified them for the position. They kept each other accountable, leading each independent fellowship as a team but seeking the consensus of the body of Christ. The priesthood of the believer was a very real thing to them. They all knew Jesus was alive and working in their lives and so they all had something of Christ to share.

I came across some interesting reading this week that points out this struggle between the church of the New Testament and organizations of man with hierarchy that has occurred over the last 2000 years. Let me read you a few of their stories. --Read highlights from The Torch and the Testimony-- So we see what we are experiencing is repeated pattern of Christ drawing his bride out of the organizations of man to the simple headship of Jesus over the church – his bride.

I have moved from Numbers to Joshua. As I entered Joshua 2 I first noticed the two spies instead of 12. I have often wondered about that and believe I got an answer from the Spirit as I worked on a ditch at Ed's. The 12 of the first group of spies represented the tribes of the Children of Israel. They were representing the people. The people never had a lot of faith in God even after seeing all the miracles. In fact, that was one of the reasons they were accountable for not obeying and having faith to go into the Promised Land. None of the ones that had seen the miracles in Egypt, except Caleb and Joshua, could go in. That makes me think of all the times I've seen His hand in my life and known He was real and how accountable that makes me to follow.

So what do the two spies represent? In the group of 12 there were two with the right Spirit. Two would be enough if they were the right two. So Joshua selects only 2. We don't know their names. And they are sent secretly. There is not a lot of fanfare for the momentous occasion. I think the Lord showed me they represent the Son and the Spirit. They go before the Children of God to spy out the Land. This is the picture Abraham had of Jehovah going to look into the cries of Sodom.

And where do they stay?... with a harlot. Jesus was a friend to the harlots and tax collectors. I think this whole picture is a wonderful painting of how the Holy Spirit and the Son seek us out and offer us life. Rahab was an Innkeeper which in those times usually meant she supplied other services to guests and hence the harlot label. She has an interesting confession of faith. See verses 10,11 She had heard the testimonies and risked her life to save herself and her family. Or you could say she lost her life with her people because she believed Jehovah was God. Imagine if the spies were found on her roof? She would have been executed for treason. But she sides with the people of God who have placed their faith in the invisible God rather than her own people. Isn't that what God calls us to do? Come out and be separate and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you and be a father to you and you will be my sons and daughters.

In fact Jesus says to be a disciple we must forsake all else... She gave it all up because she believed. Did her past matter? Did her nationality matter? Her occupation? NO! only her faith in Jehovah was important.

The king looks for the spies to take their life. It reminds us of Herod killing the babies of Bethlehem and ultimately of the prince of this world trying to snuff out the light.

Notice the life for life covenant they make. It was a 'my life for yours' agreement. But the condition is that they must stay in the house. We are being built into the household of God and if anyone in our family will stay within that house they too will be saved. There are two examples of a household coming to Christ in the book of Acts. I often wondered about the salvation of the family when the parents believe. But here is some clarification. They must remain in the house, in the covering of faith. If they walk away they are risking their lives. And the sign she was to leave in the window – a scarlet cord like the blood of the Lamb that marked the door posts of the Israelites a generation ago. Is there a scarlet cord in your window? When Christ comes again will He know you as a collaborator?

The spies disappear for three days and no one knows if they are dead or alive. Sound familiar. And now they will return, not as common man, in secret, but with an army to conquer. All the Children of God will be with them as they come to take over.

Today the Spirit and the Son seek out those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. There were a lot of people in Jericho but only Rahab was willing to abandon her ties with her world and risk it all because of what she believed. Many others apparently had the same opinion but were unwilling to act, to take

a risk. Are we risking separation from our world, alienation that comes with linking ourselves to Jesus?

Jesus and the Holy Spirit come into this hostile world looking for those whose hearts are seeking. When He knocks on your door are you willing to give Him a place, forsake all you have known and valued – become a traitor to this world and a collaborator with the Kingdom of God? You will leave your culture, your ways, perhaps even your occupation, but to remain means to face judgement.

The trumpets blown around Jericho remind us of the trumpets of Revelation. The walls of the world will fall and the army of God will come marching in. Everything of the world will melt with fervent heat. It will all be dedicated to God. I trust you have chosen the winning side.