**RAHAB AND THE SPIES**

Sunday School Lesson 22

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Joshua 2

6/8/2025

**Lesson Review:** In last week’s lesson, we looked at Moses’ final charge to the children of Israel before his death. Specifically, we noted four things that Moses charged Israel with. First, he charged the people to remember the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord. The Israelites had been eyewitnesses of the Lord’s faithfulness in His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to them, His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with them, and His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of them. Second, Moses charged the people to remember to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. They were reminded that God’s care for them also involved His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of them. He compared the Lord’s chastening care of them to that of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ care for his son. The Israelites were also reminded that God’s covenant to them involved the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of other nations who had rejected God. Third, Moses charged the people of Israel to remember to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the future \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They had a great opportunity to lay a solid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for those who would come behind them. The Israelites would have to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to this task to ensure that a generation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not forget about the Lord God of the wilderness. Lastly, Moses charged the people to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to follow the Lord. Moses wanted them to understand that they had a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make. Would they choose to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and follow the Lord? For today’s lesson, we see the first major event that happens after Joshua takes over as the leader of the children of Israel. Spies are sent to go and spy out Jericho.

1. **JOSHUA SHOWED HIS CONFIDENCE IN GOD BY SENDING ONLY TWO SPIES TO JERICHO.**
2. **Notice that Joshua sent the spies with a clear sense of direction and purpose.** *Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot’s house, named Rahab, and lodged there. 1:2 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.* Joshua demonstrated trust in the Lord’s plan for conquest by acting decisively. The Lord assured him that it was time to go up to the Promise Land. God promised to be there with Joshua as He had been with Moses. Three times, the Lord commanded Joshua to be strong and of good courage. Joshua’s first demonstration of this was by immediately sending these two spies. He gave them a specific task to go and spy out Jericho. These men did not go with the purpose of seeing whether they could defeat Jericho. They went with the goal of learning what the Lord would reveal to them about the land that they would soon possess.
3. **Notice that the use of two spies was likely an intentional parallel to the two spies who had a good report of the land of Canaan.** *Numbers 14:6–7 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.* We’ve noted previously that there are no coincidences in the Word of God. There are many examples of this numerically in the Bible. It is very fitting that Joshua’s first action as leader was to send two spies into a city in the land of Canaan. He and Caleb were the only two who had a good report of the twelve that originally were sent to spy out the land forty years earlier. While Moses was not wrong to send that number into Canaan, I believe that Joshua was letting it be known by sending only two spies that he had no patience for any report that was not going to be given in faith. While the Bible is silent on who the spies were, we can be sure that Joshua would have sent two people whom he greatly trusted. Jewish history supposes it might have been Caleb and Phinehas.
4. **THE LORD LED THE SPIES TO AN UNLIKELY PLACE OF SAFETY IN JERICHO.**
5. **Notice that the Lord directed the spies to the house of a harlot named Rahab.** *Joshua 2:1b And they went, and came into an harlot’s house, named Rahab, and lodged there.* Of all the places in Jericho, the spies ended up in the home of Rahab—a woman with a sinful reputation but a heart ready to believe. This was no coincidence. The Lord had gone before them, preparing a place of safety that also served as a key point in His larger redemptive plan. From a practical level, it’s easy to see how the spies would have picked the harlot’s home. It was a place of ill repute that would have garnered little attention. Yet, of all of the places they could have gone, they ended up in the one house that contained a person who was willing to believe in the Lord God.
6. **B. Notice that although God could have protected the spies by various means, He allowed this opportunity for Rahab to demonstrate her faith.** *Joshua 2:2-4 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. 3 And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. 4 And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:* God did not need Rahab to accomplish His mission, but He chose to use her so that her faith could be displayed. Consider that the king even heard about the men to begin with. The Lord could have concealed this information from him, but He allowed it to happen. When the king’s men arrived, Rahab acted with bravery to conceal the spies and divert their pursuers. Her actions involved great personal risk, yet they showed that she believed in the God of Israel more than in the safety of her own city. We are reminded frequently in the Bible that God uses people to carry out His purposes.
7. **THE LORD LED THE SPIES TO AN UNLIKELY PLACE OF CONFIRMATION IN JERICHO.**
8. **Notice that the spies had no need for any military information about the city of Jericho.** *d* *Joshua 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.* Although the spies may have entered Jericho with the idea of gathering information for battle, God had no intention of using human strategy to conquer the city. The walls would not be breached by weapons or force. They would fall by the power of God. This shows that the true purpose of their mission was not tactical but spiritual. The Lord led them there, not to gather intelligence, but to encounter Rahab and to receive a word of confirmation. This reminds us that God is never dependent on our resources or plans. When He brings us into a situation, it may not be to analyze how we will win but to confirm that He already has the victory well in hand.
9. **Notice that Rahab was the first person from an enemy nation to genuinely seek to help Israel.** *Joshua 2:12 Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father’s house, and give me a true token.* Rahab was not only willing to hide the spies; she actively sought an alliance with the people of God. Unlike the other nations who had opposed, cursed, or deceived Israel during their journey, Rahab made a personal appeal rooted in faith and kindness. Her words and actions demonstrated that she believed in the God of Israel and wanted to identify with His people. This made her the first recorded foreigner from an enemy nation to offer genuine help to Israel. This would have been a great source of confirmation for the spies. This person from a hostile nation was so scared that she was willing to turn against her own city because she believed in the power of the mighty God of Israel.
10. **Notice that Rahab provided the spies with the confirmation that the Lord had given the city into their hands.** *Joshua 2:9 And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. 24 And they said unto Joshua, Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.* While the spies already knew that the Lord had promised victory to Israel, He had a message that was going to be communicated through Rahab. This was a message that the spies would be able to take back to Joshua and the children of Israel. Just as the Lord could have brought safety through other means, He could have brought confirmation. Yet, as He often does, the Lord wants us to use our voice to confirm His Word to others. Rahab likely didn’t even know that she was giving the exact message that was needed.
11. **THE LORD LED THE SPIES TO AN UNLIKELY PERSON IN NEED OF SALVATION IN JERICHO.**

* **Notice that the Lord used the spies to bring salvation to an unlikely person who had chosen to believe word she had heard about the Lord.** *Joshua 2:13 And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. 14 And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.* We find two main purposes in the story of Rahab. The one purpose was for the benefit of Israel, and the other purpose was for the benefit of Rahab. Obviously, the Lord looked down from Heaven and saw this woman who was willing to believe on Him. He used His servants as a way to bring salvation to her. Likewise, the Lord uses His servants today to bring His salvation to the lost in the world.