

SERIES: *Joshua*
TITLE: *Hope From Trouble*
SPEAKER: *Pastor Bob Marvel*
PASSAGE: *Joshua 2:11, 4:24, 5:13-14, 6:17-19, 7:1,24-25,*
DATES: *October 15-16, 2022*

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

It's more important to be on God's side than asking God to be on our side in a circumstance. He used outsiders to fulfill His plan for the redemption of humanity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Pastor Bob opened with Joshua 4:24, and emphasized our need to always fear the Lord our God, which he defined as taking Him very, very seriously. What does that look like to you?
- When Joshua saw the angel, He essentially asked, "whose SIDE are you ON?" (Joshua 5:13) What's the difference between God being "BY our side" and being "ON our side?" Have you ever wanted God to be "on your side" of an issue or circumstance? Why is it more important that we are on God's side than He is on ours?
- God told the Israelites to consecrate themselves at night before He would reveal in the morning who took the items that were devoted to the Lord, why do you think Achan didn't just come forward and confess? What was the consequence for his actions, and who was affected by the consequence?
- In contrast, Rahab, the prostitute, told the two spies that the hearts of the people of Jericho melted and their courage failed because the LORD their God was God in heaven and on earth (Joshua 2:11). How did her fear of the LORD change the whole trajectory of her life (Joshua 6:23, 25) and beyond her own life?
- What is the Biblical significance to the scarlet cord that Rahab tied outside her window?
- What did you think when Pastor Bob speculated that Rahab is consistently called "Rahab the prostitute" throughout the Bible, even though her life was radically changed, because it was maybe an invitation that all of us can come to God? Is any "outsider" outside of God's grace?
- Share an experience where "the valley of trouble" became "a door of hope" for you or someone you know.
- Pastor Bob ended with Acts 10:34-35, and Peter talking to Cornelius, the Roman centurion. Why is it Good News that God doesn't show favoritism?

NEXT STEPS

Make your daily prayer this week, one of gratitude for God's grace to you. Look for opportunities to invite outsiders to be insiders. Ask God to show you one person to reach out to this week.