

January 18, 2026

Joshua: Strength and Courage
The Scarlet Cord
Joshua 2:1-24

The opening words of Joshua 3 flow naturally from the end of Joshua 1, “Then Joshua arose early in the morning and they set out.” Joshua leads the Israelites after he was commanded to arise and go. Instead, the story introduces Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, encountered by Joshua’s spies. Of all the people the spies could meet in Jericho they meet her. Why is Rahab’s story recorded? Rahab’s story teaches us that mercy triumphs over judgment.

Additional Verses:

Exodus 14:21 Deuteronomy 9:4
Hebrews 11:31 Ephesians 2:4-9

Jonah 3:1-10
James 2:13

Outline:

1. God keeps His promises.

2. God fights for His people.

3. God delivers His people.

4. God is the sovereign Lord.

5. God offers mercy before judgment.

Study Questions:

1. How is Rahab different from other Canaanite women encountered in the Old Testament? How does Rahab cause us to think differently about the Canaanites and other outsiders?
2. What is the importance of Rahab “hearing” about God? Why is it important for the gospel to be heard? (Romans 10:14-17)
3. How is Joshua 2 a picture of the Gospel? When have you seen mercy triumph over judgment?
4. What does Rahab’s past teach us about our prejudices when it comes to evangelism? How can God work through us to overcome our prejudices?
5. Where are some other places in the Bible where the outsider becomes an insider? What does this teach us about God’s character?
6. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?