



PREPARING THE WAY

SCRIPTURE READING: *“They said to Joshua, ‘The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.’”* (Joshua 2:24 NIV)

After 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Jewish people once again spied out the land that had been promised to them. This time the report came back, *‘The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.’*

The character of God holds many facets. He is never-ending, all-powerful, ever-present, all-knowing, and in perpetual motion. Yes, our God is divinely active. What was undetectable to the Israelites, screamed in the hearts of those who occupied the Promised Land---immense fear! Stories of God’s victory for His people had consumed their pagan hearts and no one could escape the news, not even Rahab, the town prostitute. Her business brought many to her door and with it came the news about Jehovah God. Like others in Canaan, stories of what the God of Israel had done melted her heart with fear, but not the kind that made her want to flee. Her fear was a godly fear, one that was full of wonder and awe. Though steeped in sin, her heart was being prepared to receive the one true living God. She would in fact become the one who would assist His people and fulfill His promise.

Why did God use a pagan prostitute to help His people conquer the Promised Land? How could He overlook her sorted past? Wouldn’t this tarnish His name? The answer to these questions lie where no human can see or go, for it lies deep within the heart. As sorted as it was, Rahab’s past could not conceal her seeking heart. Able to see her small seed of faith, God’s was drawn to her like a magnet. He could have done it all Himself, but her heart caught His eye. Sinful as she had been, He simply could not overlook her.

Do you feel unworthy to approach God? Regardless of what you have done in the past or what your reputation is now, God sees deep within your heart. No amount of sin can block His view of the potential that lies within you. He has a great and mighty plan that includes you, but first you must believe in Him. Why? Because, without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Turn from the sins of your past, ask for forgiveness, forgive yourself, and begin a new and wonderful journey with Him today!

PRAYER: *Dear Father, I believe you have a great plan for me. I believe you are the only true and living God. Forgive me of my sins, cleanse my heart, and fill me with your presence. Transform me through and through, and make into a new creature. I commit my life to You! Amen.*