

Daily Devotional, October 28, 2021 Unity in Building God's Kingdom

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. – Joshua 2:1

The Israelite nation had been delivered from captivity in Egypt. They had wandered in the wilderness, led by Moses, who was led by God, to the land that had been promised to them. Traversing back and forth in the wilderness for 40 years, God used the difficulties they would face to help this people to become a righteous nation. They were given the law on Mt. Sinai and taught how to be God's people. They had now arrived at the final place where they would camp before entering the promised land.

Before moving into the promised land, Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, sent spies ahead. The first obstacle the Israelites would have to overcome would be the people of the great city of Jericho. This strong, heavily fortified city would be almost impossible to conquer. The spies went ahead to learn all that they could of their weaknesses.

When the spies entered the city, they quickly understood how difficult the task in front of them would be. The spies were almost captured. Thankfully they were saved through the kindness of Rahab. Rahab took the two spies and hid them on her roof. When the people who were looking for the spies left, she helped them escape. Rahab was not an Israelite. She was a citizen of Jericho, *and* we're told she was a prostitute. And although she had not traveled in the wilderness with those who had fled from Egypt, she somehow showed great faith in God and God's people.

In life, we often have a very narrow vision of the people that God can use to do God's good will. But that is not how God works. God works for the good of all people by working *through* all people. The Israelite people and Rahab were able to accomplish a mighty thing, with God's help. They did not come from the same place, or have the same background, but God used spies, prostitutes, and many others to establish a holy nation. God continues to use all kinds of people to do amazing things. And He will use all of us to bring His kingdom to earth, just as it is in heaven.

Prayer: Oh Lord, as we work together to build your kingdom, let us be the light that leads the world to you. Teach us to be good role models to the people around us, so that when they see you and your love within us, they would want to know you more and more. Grant us the patience to work together, bring us all together as a family. Let us work together with understanding and compassion in our hearts. Let us not be rude or arrogant towards one another, as we light the way to your heavenly kingdom. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen