



Evidentiary Faith
Part Two
(Don't Go Back There!)

Joshua 1:12-15

Observations

- In our last lesson, we studied a story chronicling the children of Israel as they were about to cross the Jordan River into “The Promised Land.”
- God had them to wait for three days on the banks of the river before crossing over and capturing Jericho
- One reason to wait, was to save a woman in Jericho by the name of Rahab and her household because she had shown an “evidentiary faith,” in her life
- God wants this type of faith in us; Hebrews 11:1,6
- Show a patient faith during the Pandemic; *“They that wait on the Lord shall renew....” Isaiah 40:31*

The Second Reason That He Wanted Them To Wait:

There Was a Separation to Confirm

- **During the three-day waiting period before going into Canaan, Joshua spoke to the Nation to see if they all really wanted to go into Canaan, Joshua 1:12-18**
- **Remember that the nation of Israel had 12 tribes that had all left Egypt for the land of Canaan**
- **However, during their journey (Numbers 32), they had come upon an area of land that was fertile, rich, and wonderful for keeping livestock—and had potential for great wealth**

- So two of the tribes (Reuben and Gad) and ½ of the tribe of Manasseh approached Moses, their leader at that time, with their proposal; Numbers 32:1-5
- *“We would rather stay here on this side of the Jordan (this place is all anybody could ask for). “We don’t want to live in Canaan.” “Just let us stay right here.” “We’ll be just fine.”*
- So, Moses agreed with their decision; and Joshua, who succeeded Moses as their leader, reminds them of their decision; Joshua 1:12-15; After all, what else could he do?
- Every man or woman has a right to choose the level of spiritual life on which he or she is going to live. That’s What Free Moral Agency Is All About!
- In the story of the prodigal son, the father didn’t stop his grown son from leaving home, even though he knew that he was making a BAD DECISION

Observations

- **Sometimes, parents know that their grown children are making bad choices**

Dropping out of school (more education means more knowledge—which means more choices). In general, there is less clutter in your life in your youth to have to deal with; Ecclesiastes 12:1

Picking the wrong marriage partner (irresponsible, unethical, immoral, not spiritual, no work ethic)

Remember the “Probationary Period”

Parents have a difficult time continuing to “subsidize” their children’s BAD DECISIONS!

So, Joshua Said OK. You Can Stay On This Side of the Jordan River, With One Condition

- Take part in the battle of Jericho by leading the Israelite Nation in the walk around Jericho to claim victory, Joshua 1:13-15
- Now, can you imagine “*the moment of truth,*” after the war was over, when Joshua addresses the 2 ½ tribes reminding them of their decision and asking them ONE MORE TIME, what they wanted to do
- They confirmed to Joshua that they wanted to go back and live *on the other side,* and not with the rest of God’s family

Here is the Analogy!

- All spiritual blessings are in Christ, Ephesians 1:3
- Once we are baptized into Christ, we enter into the family of God; and have the opportunity to reap the Spiritual Benefits of being in Christ—His providential guidance and direction
- God's instructional manual says that we weren't designed as humans to guide ourselves, Jeremiah 10:23

But the Question: On What Level of Spiritual Life We Choose to Live, is Up to Us!

- We can enjoy the blessings of being in Christ (Canaan), and enjoy the providential directions of God Himself, AS A CHOICE

Here is the Problem

- In Christ, we share some of the “providential victories” that are ours (we all have our own personal testimonies)

YET

- We still remember the “*temporary pleasures of sin,*” and may YEARN to go back there to live (like the two and one-half Israelite tribes in the text)
- Did you not know that the Bible notes that sin can be “pleasurable to us!” Hebrews 11:24

But That is Where the Danger Lies!

Remember, Our Choices Have Consequences!

2 Peter 2:21-22

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them....”

“But it has happened unto them according to the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed into her wallowing in the mire.”

- **In 1 Chronicles 5:26, the Bible tells us that the first tribes of God’s people to be captured by their enemy, the Assyrians, and taken into bondage, were Gad, Reuben, and ½ of Manasseh**
- **Even though they had been permitted to lead God’s people around the walls of Jericho and watched them crumble and allowed to taste of the heavenly victory, as Trey Pitts would say, *“they didn’t learn!”***
- **Remember: To what you are exposed, you are accountable (we have been exposed to the blessings of God)! Luke 9:62, *“No man, having put his hand...”***

- In Pagan culture, to catch a monkey, the hunter would cut a 50-cent sized hole in a pumpkin and place “goodies” in the pumpkin that the monkey liked
- The monkey would stick his hand in the hole but wouldn’t remove his hand when it was bulging with “goodies.”
- When the hunter would come the monkey was caught, trapped with his hand in the pumpkin, because he refused to let go of the “goodies!”



I'm not letting go!



What's in Your Hand That You Won't Let Go for God? 1John 2:15-17



Pleasure of slander



Pleasure of alcohol/drugs



Pleasure of extramarital affairs



Pleasure of Success

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The Plan of Salvation

- **Hear the Gospel** **Acts 15:7**
- **Believe the Gospel** **Acts 15:7**
- **Repent of Sins** **Acts 17:30**
- **Confess Christ** **Acts 8:37**
- **Be Baptized** **Acts 8:38**