

OVERCOMING YOUR PAST

Courage to Overcome – Part 2

Joshua 2:1-24

May 24, 2020

4 TRUTHS TO KEEP YOUR PAST FROM SPOILING YOUR FUTURE

1. We all have regrets about the past.

- Rahab was a prostitute, but that is not what she is remembered for.

Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. – James 2:25 NLT

- Guilt and shame are two of Satan's most powerful weapons.
- God wants us to experience forgiveness from both Him and ourselves.

His blood will make us completely clean from the evil we have done. It will give us clear consciences so that we can worship the living God. – Heb. 9:14 ERV

If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won't be punished. The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Jesus Christ and will set you free.... – Rom. 8:1-2 CEV

2. God loves to use our past failures and regrets to make us more useful to Him and others.

So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. – Joshua 2:1b NIV

Joshua talked to the two spies. He said, "You made a promise to the prostitute. So go to her house and bring her out and all those who are with her." So the two men went into the house and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all her family, and all those who were with her. They put all the people in a safe place outside the camp of Israel. – Joshua 6:22-23 ERV

- People relate to our weaknesses and failures far more than to our strengths.

3. Changing your destiny requires you making some clean breaks from the past in order to embrace God and His plan.

Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you.... For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings...whose people you completely destroyed. ...the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the

earth below. Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you.” – Joshua 2:8-12 NLT

4. Our past failures DO NOT limit God’s future plans for us.

Salmon was the father of Boaz. (His mother was Rahab.). Boaz was the father of Obed. (His mother was Ruth.). Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. – Matt. 1:5-6 ERV

And Rahab, the prostitute, welcomed the Israelite spies like friends. And because of her faith, she was not killed with the ones who refused to obey. – Heb. 11:31 ERV