



Mustard Sermon Discussion Questions - July 18, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:31-34 (NIV84) By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomes the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies.

Joshua 2:1-3 (NIV84) 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. The king of Jericho was told, “Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

Joshua 2:8-11 (NIV84) Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you... (11) When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

Warm Up:

Throughout this series, we have been looking at ordinary people who God used to do extraordinary things. Can you name a few people in your life who fit this description? Talk about their story of how God has used/uses them.

Discussion:

1) Read Hebrews 11:1. Toward the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom shared this insight about faith:

...Faith is the solid underneath. Other translations use the word assurance. As we consider the things we hope for—faith is what stands beneath us.

What might it look like for faith to be the “solid underneath” or the thing that stands beneath us as we move through life? If you can think of people who live with this kind of faith, share some of their stories with your group.

2) Pastor Tom described a life-changing principle we have been gnawing around as a church:

God can use anyone and nobody is disqualified or unqualified if they are willing.

How might this principle contrast what culture says? What are some things you consider qualifications to be used by God? What things might people say disqualify someone from being used by God?

3) Read Joshua 2:1-11.

What stands out most to you about the spies? What might have disqualified Rahab (by human standards) from being used by God? What stands out most to you about Rahab?

4) In reference to the previous passage, how might this be a point of repentance for Rahab?

5) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

Some you have been paralyzed in your followership because of your failures. Your thought is, “After everything I have done, God could never use someone like me. My past disqualifies me.” God doesn’t call the qualified. He qualifies the called... God doesn’t need ability. He needs availability.

Have you ever been paralyzed in following Jesus because of your failures? Why might this be? Have you ever experienced God “qualifying” you? If so, what was that like?

6) In reference to the excerpt from Pastor Tom, how is the story of Rahab a testimony to this idea? How was Rahab available to God?

7) At the end of his message, Pastor Tom talked about how the trajectory of our lives changes when we put our faith in Jesus.

How have you seen this in the lives of those around you? How have you seen this in your own life? If you haven’t, what is keeping you from saying “yes?”

Next Steps:

Take some time this week to look at some of your favorite bible stories.

What disqualifications would we say the person had? In what ways were they available to God? Was there a moment of repentance? If so, what was it?

Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

God never asked me to do anything for him on my own, but he would go with me. He calls you, he calls me to do—with Him.

What might God be calling you into with Him?