**Study notes – Joshua 2:1-24 – Life-changing faith, 11th September 2022**

**Welcome**

* Which person has had the biggest impact on your Christian faith and how/why?

OR

* How are you feeling, following the death of the Queen and the passing of the throne to Charles III?

**Worship** – **Colossians 1:3-6**

* Praise God for Jesus Christ and the hope of the gospel message
* Give thanks for those people in public life, or who are known to you personally, whose faith bears witness to Christ’s love
* Praise God for the fruit that is “growing throughout the whole world”

**Word – Life-changing faith (Joshua 2:1-24)**

* Life-changing faith has at its heart a belief and understanding that God is sovereign (v11b)
* Life-changing faith…
1. Can be **risky** business (vv2-7)
2. Expresses itself through **kind**ness (vv12-14)
3. Is powered by **promises** (vv1:3, 2:9,14,21)
4. Brings **salvation** from judgment (vv2:23-24, 6:25)
5. Gives **testimony** to the Lord (vv2:10-11,24)

The power of life-changing faith: **RISKY, KIND TESTIMONY PROMISES SALVATION**

**Passage discussion questions (choose a few…)**

* Why might Rahab’s house have been a good place for the spies to visit in their scouting mission of Jericho?
* Was Rahab justified in lying to the king’s men as to the whereabouts of the two spies? Why did she do this and what was the risk she took?
* What was the difference between the way Rahab and others in Canaan/Jericho responded to what they’d heard about the Lord?
* What key qualities of life-changing faith are displayed by the two spies in this story?
* What is the role played by the scarlet cord? Are the links that some scholars have drawn with the Passover and the blood of the Lamb/Jesus Christ speculative or justified?
* What, ultimately, has been the purpose of the spies’, reconnaissance mission?

**Reflection and application questions (choose a few…)**

* Do you agree with the definition of “life-changing faith”, as outlined in the “Word” section? Would you add/amend anything?
* To what extent do we, as people of God, need to listen to, and to co-operate with, “outsiders” as we go about God’s mission?
* What are some of the promises of God that have served as crucial foundations for your own faith or which you believe are particularly important for us to hold onto at this time of change, challenge and opportunity?
* Have you ever felt prompted to take a particular risk because of your faith? Are there areas of life where, as God’s people, we should perhaps take more faith-fuelled risks?
* What is the role of testimony (spoken and lived) in inspiring faith? Do you have a brief testimony to share with group/a friend/a colleague which might help encourage faith?
* If you had to take one element of the Queen’s legacy of life-changing faith and seek to apply it in your own life, what would it be?

**Prayer suggestions**

* Thanksgiving for the Queen’s life and her faithful witness to Jesus Christ
* For the newly installed King and Prime Minister
* That we individually and collectively might bear witness to our faith in Jesus Christ and that through our testimony, see will see lives changed by the Holy Spirit
* For pastoral needs in the group