

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

I wonder if you would be so kind as to turn to the **Book of Joshua**. I want you today to see something about the happenings that take so many lives without their even realizing what is going on. We have heard the phrase, *the world, the flesh and the devil*. Jericho, in **Joshua**, is really depicting *the world*. It was the faith of Rahab you might remember, which was used in that story of how the Lord delivered her and her household out of Jericho. Jericho was a city God chose to totally destroy. Rahab turned her back on the world. Sometimes we do not realize we have to turn our back one hundred percent on the world. It is so easy to think we can go down a pavement or sidewalk with one foot on one level and one foot on another, somehow feeling we are having a big impact in both regions. No, we are to be clean cut in our position that we have been brought out of the world. If Rahab had not been brought out of the world — -in other words, if she had not by faith, stood — she would have been like everybody else; just lost and we would never have known about her. Scriptures show that it was because she took this precarious position, not only was she saved but also her family. What was more, for this woman who had been a harlot, a prostitute, and who knows what had happened in her past, God

arranged for her to have the choice of a husband that meant that one day she brought forth a son called Boaz. Boaz married a lady called Ruth and there you have in the Bible a lineage that points to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in His first advent.

After all of this happening of the world, represented by Jericho, we are going to see that, at another time, there was a miraculous crossing of the River Jordan. This crossing took place at full flood time. That was the worst flooding you could imagine, but God brought them through.

Then we are going to see where the Scriptures show a place that is compared to the flesh. Jericho - the world. Ai - a very simple spelling - speaks of *the flesh*. In **chapter 6 and verse 18**, there was a very clear message given. They were to . . . **keep yourselves from the accursed . . . things, lest you make yourselves accursed.** The **accursed thing** is that thing which is, by God, **devoted [to destruction.]** So, when people say, 'Well, I do not know - the flesh pulls me a lot.' We don't realize that God is gracious and good and protective when He shows us this fact. They were ordered not to do this.

The sad thing is, if you have a Bible before you, in **chapter 7**, the first word is **But**. Oh, that word! What it covers!

**1 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the**

**devoted thing:** - *the accursed thing* - **for Achan** - *this is the name of a man* - . . . **took of the devoted thing; and the anger of the Lord burned against the people of Israel.** This was the first of the cities to be taken and they were to be told that everything belonged to the Lord. That was why they were not to touch any small thing. It was a clear order. How often we go through life and we think, “Oh, that is only a little thing. Just a little bit of a lie or just a little bit of a deception, because, after all, it would be too difficult to explain everything.” An apparent small, easy matter to handle says the voice of independence from God. Our independent spirit from God is sin. “No need to be involving the Lord in this little matter. I can sort this one out. And, after all, you know, we have just come through this wonderful triumph, this great victory. After all, we took Jericho, didn’t we?” How quickly it happens: for what God has done we take credit to ourselves! Self confidence, pride, independence, what we think are little things are huge sins in the sight of God. For that reason, whatever the Spirit of the Lord is speaking to you about right now, I want you as a child of God to say, *Lord, put your finger on that for not only am I affected, but the people around me.*

I want you to listen tomorrow as we go further into this amazing part of **Joshua**. In the meantime, do let the Lord speak to you. Do let your heart be in a position of knowing His fullness, His victory,

His liberty, instead of living in bondage. The Lord be glorified. We love you.

*In Jesus' Name. Amen.*