

The curse of sin and the gift of life

Joshua 6:21-27

September 20, 2015

1. In verse 21 it says that the Israelites killed every living thing in the city of Jericho. This isn't the only time in the Old Testament that they do this either. What is your reaction when you hear these stories? Does it ever sound harsh or even wrong? Does it ever make you question God?
2. We learn in 1 Kings 16 that Hiel persists in rebuilding Jericho despite the loss of two of his sons. Do you ever see people persist in their sin despite obvious consequences? Why do you think this happens? Do you ever do this?
3. After hearing this sermon and reading these passages what is your impression of God's view towards sin? Do you think you see sin the same way that God does? Why or why not?
4. While much of these stories show God's extreme vengeance for sin he also offers grace to outcasts. How does God's treatment of Rahab and her family shape your view of God? Do we ever lose sight of how gracious God can be to those who repent? Are we always that gracious?
5. The two most blessed characters in this sermon are Rahab and Zacchaeus. How can you be more like them? How should you treat people like them?
6. Seeing how God wove together the city of Jericho with people like Rahab, Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist and Jesus through thousands of years, what does that tell you about God?