

## Lesson 2: How God Moves in Our Mess

### Scripture:

#### 2 Peter 3:9

- **KJV** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- **AMP** The Lord does not delay [as though He were unable to act] and is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is [extraordinarily] patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

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### Opening Summary: Instant Change But Slow Transition

When email was first introduced in the 1970s, it marked a significant change in communication, yet the transition to using it widely in the workplace took decades. Many resisted the shift—clinging to memos, faxes, and phone calls—until they gradually adapted to the new way of working. The technology was available, but mindsets, habits, and trust had to catch up. In a similar way, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ introduced the greatest change in human history, and the establishment of His church on Pentecost made salvation accessible to all. Yet, even with this powerful truth and the complete revelation of Scripture, many still struggle—or even resist—the transition to fully surrendering to Him. Like the slow adoption of email, accepting Christ often requires a deeper shift in heart, trust, and understanding.

### Discussion Questions:

- Can you think of a change that has been introduced over the years that has also seen a slow transition process?
- What are some reasons for the delayed transition?

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### Section 1: God's Patience

Rahab lived in the city of Jericho, a powerful and fortified city within the land of Canaan. The Canaanites, including Rahab's people, were known for their idolatry, immorality, and complete disregard for the one true God. For generations, they had strayed far from acknowledging or honoring Him, despite the stories of His mighty acts spreading throughout the region. God, in His power, could have brought judgment on Jericho long

before Joshua and the Israelites ever approached. Yet He allowed time to pass—demonstrating both His patience and mercy—giving space for hearts to turn, even in enemy territory.

This mercy is seen clearly in Rahab’s story. When the two Israelite spies entered Jericho, she sheltered them—not merely out of fear, but because she had come to believe in the God of Israel. In Joshua 2:9-11, Rahab makes a bold confession of faith, saying, “the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” Though her spiritual transition was delayed, Rahab recognized God's supremacy, His involvement in history, and ultimately, His mercy. Her belief set her apart from the rest of her people and led to her deliverance. Rahab’s story reminds us that even when people resist or delay turning to God, His patience can open the door for transformation—and that no one is beyond His reach.

**Joshua 2: 9-11**

- (9) And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.
- (10) For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.
- (11) And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Have you ever known someone who struggled to fully make a life transition—whether it was addressing a physical or emotional issue, or choosing to turn away from a wrong path?
- How did you approach or feel about the situation and person?

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**Section 2: God’s Compassion**

Rahab’s story is a powerful reminder that God’s compassion extends to all people, regardless of their past or position in society. Though Rahab was a prostitute—someone society would overlook or condemn—God saw her potential and spared not only her, but her entire family. Her faith response set her apart, even while living in a city destined for destruction. Similarly, Jesus consistently reached out to those labeled as sinners and

outcasts, declaring that He came not for the righteous, but for the lost—those in need of healing and restoration. Like the Heavenly Father and the Beloved Son, we are called to reflect that same compassion. We should never turn away those who are still in the process of transition. All of us were once in that place—lost, broken, and in need of grace. Instead of judgment, we are called to embrace others as God does: by sharing His Word, living as faithful examples, and praying with and for those who are still making their way toward Christ.

### **Supporting Scriptures**

- **Luke 19: 10 KJV** — (10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- **Mark 2: 15-17 KJV** – (15) And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. (16) And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? (17) When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How do Luke 19:10 and Mark 2:15–17 help us understand why Jesus didn't avoid people like Rahab, and what does that say about how we should view and treat those society often overlooks or judges?
- Rahab's profession didn't disqualify her from experiencing God's mercy—in fact, her faith set her apart. In what ways can we show the same kind of compassion and openness to people who may seem far from God, but are in the process of turning toward Him?

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### **Section 3: God's Plan**

In Joshua 2:12-19, Rahab plays a pivotal role in protecting the Israelite spies by hiding them from the king's soldiers. As part of her agreement with the spies, Rahab lowers them down the outside wall of Jericho using a rope, ensuring their safe escape. She also makes a crucial promise—she ties a scarlet cord in her window, as a sign of her faith and the pact she made with the spies. This scarlet cord served as a symbol of protection: when the Israelites returned to conquer Jericho, they would pass over Rahab's house and spare her family, just as she had shown mercy to them.

This scarlet cord is a powerful symbol of salvation. Just as Rahab's physical safety was secured by the scarlet cord, we too are given safety and protection through the blood of Christ. His sacrifice on the cross provides the means for our salvation—just as the scarlet cord signified a physical deliverance for Rahab and her family, Christ's blood, poured out for us, marks the way to eternal life. God, in His mercy, offers us a chance for redemption, even when we, like Rahab, are in a position where we don't deserve it. Through the blood of Christ, we are spared from the consequences of sin, given a new life, and invited into God's family.

### Supporting Scriptures

- **Hebrews 10: 11-12 KJV** — (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: (12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
- **Ephesians 2: 8 KJV** — (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

### Discussion Question:

- Knowing that God's plan of salvation through Jesus was not just for the righteous, but for everyone, including the outcast and overlooked—how does that shape the way you view yourself and others who are still in the process of coming to Him?

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### Final Thoughts & Actions

As you move forward, remember this lesson whenever you encounter someone who is slow to transition. Just as God has shown incredible patience and compassion with us, we are called to reflect that same grace toward others. Continue to lovingly share God's plan, not with frustration, but with understanding and hope. And most importantly, keep those who are still in the process of turning to Christ lifted in prayer—trusting that God is still working in their hearts, just as He did in ours.