The Story: Chapter Seven

The Battle Begins

*“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.****33****Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.****34****For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.* Luke 12:32-34

**Joshua: Faith is the victory**

*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”* Romans 1:17

* God reiterates His promise.
* God reassures Joshua with His presence.
* God explains the expected response.
* Do exactly as He says, even when it doesn’t make sense.
* So much at stake.

**Rahab: A woman of flaws and faith**

*By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.* Hebrews 11:31

* Rahab is a quintessential Canaanite.
* Canaanites coupled religious practices with sexual immorality.
  + Worship practices included sexual relations with temple prostitutes.
  + Worship practices included sacrificing children as burnt offerings.
* And yet, Rahab seems to be the only one living by faith.
  + Joshua secretly sends in the spies.
  + The spies were not very good spies.
  + The king’s men were easily deceived.
* Rahab’s confession of faith.
  + “I know that YHWH has given you this land”.
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  + “We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt.”
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  + “For the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”
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* Rahab was saved by faith alone in the One True God.
* Rahab occupies a critical position in the genealogy of Christ.
* So much at stake.

**Achan: A fool at heart**

*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”  
    They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  there is none who does good.* Psalm 14:1

* A pedigreed Israelite and member of the community.
* Committed the deed even though he knew it was wrong.
* His deeds exposed his idolatry.
* His faithless action had dire consequences.
* So much at stake.

**Israel: Serving a Holy and Merciful God**

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.****10****Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.* 1 Peter 2:9-10

* God’s goodness transcends all cultures and peoples.
* God’s previous work provides a basis for trusting what He will do in the future.
* God saves the most undeserving.
* God unites us as His people.
* God is devoted to redeeming.
* So much at stake.