



Greater Than What Is Against You!

Easter Weekend 2017

But sin did not, and does not, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. **When it is sin versus grace, grace wins hands down.**
Romans 5:20 (MSG)

Grace is greater than what is AGAINST you!

Joshua 6:20-25 — When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, **“Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.”** So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord’s house. But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—**and she lives among the Israelites to this day.**

- 1. God’s grace actively PURSUES you, and is willing to RESCUE you, from the penalty of SIN, and give you NEW LIFE.**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, **it is the gift of God**— not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not die with those who were disobedient, because **she had welcomed** the spies with a greeting of peace. (Hebrews 11:31)

God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was **against us** and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)

2. **God's grace gives you a new IDENTITY and PURPOSE.**

This is the **genealogy of Jesus the Messiah...**

... Salmon the father of Boaz, **whose mother was Rahab**, (Matthew 1:1, 5)

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, **who can be against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, **graciously give us all things?** Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** Romans 8:31-37

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Join us next Sunday for:

Grace Improves All Your Relationships.



Life Group Discussion & Questions

BREAKING THE ICE: Catch up with each other. What did your Easter weekend include?

DIGGING IN: All of us will have things (people and circumstances) that seek to come against us. But our greatest opposition is internal not external. The Bible calls it sin. But we are not alone. God extends His grace to us — and it is greater than any sin that has come, or will come, against us.

1. Read the back story of Rahab, in Joshua chapter 2, along with the instructions that God gave the Israelites in Exodus 12:21-28. What parallels do you see in these two stories? In what ways do you think these stories illustrate our salvation by grace, that Jesus provided on the cross?
2. Grace not only rescues us from sin, it brings new life and purpose. Read Romans 8. Highlight a few words or phrases, that stand out to you. Explain why you chose them.
3. To fully embrace a new identity we have to talk in a manner consistent with that identity. Words can either support identities or work against them. Take some time and discuss what words are consistent with being “more than a conqueror” and which ones need to fall out of our vocabulary. Remember, grace is greater than what is against you!

BRINGING IT HOME: Take time to thank God for who you are in Christ. Then give time for group members to share any challenge that might be coming against them. In prayer, declare God’s grace and victory over them.