



Eagle Forum Prayer Guide December 2023

Scripture

Romans 4:3 "... Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 1:17 "... The righteous shall live by faith"

James 5:16 "... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Matthew 17:20 "... I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Commentary – Ordinary people having an extraordinary impact

We will look at how the faith and character of four ordinary individuals; a Canaanite prostitute, a Jewish orphan, a shepherd boy, and an Egyptian slave were used by God to implement his plan to bless all the families of the earth. In Isaiah 55:8-9 God tells us "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways*" says the Lord. *'For as the heavens are higher than the earth So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts'*" The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 1:27 *"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty"* God tells why He used people like the Canaanite prostitute, Jewish orphan, shepherd boy, Egyptian slave and why he can use people like you and me if we put our faith and trust in Him. Isaiah 42:8 *"I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images."*

Our first character is Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute who through faith showed mercy, kindness, and hospitality by hiding Joshua's two spies from the king of Jericho. We can see Rahab's heart in Joshua 2:9-12 where she says *"I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea ... and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites ... whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things*

our hearts melted ... for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” James’ discourse on biblical faith says this about Rahab, James 11:31 *“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies in peace.”* Rahab’s reward for putting her life on the line and having the faith to trust God for her protection when she hid Joshua’s spies is seen in Matthew where he outlines the genealogy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:5 *“Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king.”*

Our second character is an Orphaned Jewish girl whose family was carried into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon. Esther 2:7 *“And Mordecai had brought up ... Esther, his uncle’s daughter... The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.”* King Ahasuerus, the king of Persia was looking for a new queen after he banished queen Vashti for disobedience. An order was sent out to all the provinces of Persia to gather beautiful virgins to the citadel of Shushan, to be given beauty treatments to see who would become the new queen of Persia. Esther was also taken into the king’s palace where she found favor with Hegai the eunuch in charge of all the women. Esther 2:15 *“Now when the turn came for Esther ... to go into the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king’s eunuch advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.”* Esther 2:17 *“The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight ...”* Sometime after Esther became queen, Ahasuerus ordered all his servants to bow down and pay homage to Haman a leading prince of Persia. Mordecai, the Jew who raised Esther, refused to bow down and pay homage to Haman because he only bowed down and worshiped the Lord God. In a fit of rage, Haman plotted to destroy all the Jews in Persia. When Mordecai heard Haman’s plan he sent Esther a message asking her to intervene with the king to save the Jews. Esther 4:14-16 *“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Then Esther told them ... Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so, I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.”* Esther’s intervention resulted in saving the Jews and the destruction of Haman.

Our third character was a shepherd boy named David thought to be unworthy of coming to his father’s banquet with the prophet Samuel who planned to anoint one of Jesse’s sons as the future king of Israel. Being a shepherd was one of the lowest positions in Jewish society usually given to a youngest sons, a single male or hired hand. The job was socially isolated, nomadic and they lived outside 24/7. When evaluating people, God does not use the same criteria as man. When Samuel was trying to choose Jesse’s oldest son Eliab as the new king of Israel, God told Samuel in 1 Samuel 16 *“Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”* We see David’s heart for God in many biblical

passages none more so than his battle with Goliath. 1 Samuel 17:45-47 *"... You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you... Then this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."* David killed Goliath, eventually became the king of Israel, and Jesus Christ became one of his descendants. Apostle Paul tells us in Acts 13:22 *"... He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'"*

Our fourth character is Joseph who was hated by his own brothers for being Jacob's favored son, giving bad reports about them, and gloating about dreams that they would all bow down before him. His brother plotted to kill him, but Judah convinced them to sell him as a slave for 20 shekels (8 oz) of silver. A captain of Pharaoh's guard, Potiphar, bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites. Genesis 39:2-4 says this about Joseph *"The Lord was with Joseph, and ... his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. So, Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house and all that he had he put under his authority."* Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, but he said this to her in Genesis 39:9 *"There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph and said he tried to seduce her, so Potiphar had Joseph thrown into prison. Genesis 39:21-23 *"But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; ... The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did the LORD made it prosper."* Pharaoh had thrown the chief butler and baker into prison and they both had dreams which Joseph interpreted correctly for them. Then Joseph said the butler would return to his previous position with pharaoh. Genesis 40:14-15 *"...please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. For ... I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."* The butler forgot about Joseph until the pharaoh had a dream that no one was able to interpret. The Pharaoh sent for Joseph to get an interpretation of his dream and Joseph said to Pharaoh, Genesis 41:16 *"It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."* Joseph proceeded to give Pharaoh the interpretation of the dream giving God the honor and glory for the interpretation. Then Pharaoh said to Joseph in Genesis 41:39-40, *"Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."*

Our four characters had 5 qualities in common

1. First and foremost, they found favor with God through their belief and trust in Him and He accounted it to them as righteousness.
2. They found favor with men through their actions, words, and deeds.
3. They put their faith in God and His provision for their safety.
4. They committed to do what was right in God's eyes up to and including their own death.
5. They honored God with their words and actions.

If we intend to make America a Christian nation once again, take our nation back from the left's totalitarian agenda, restore a godly culture, strengthen our churches, communities, and families, then there is much we can learn from these four biblical characters. God works through people but on His terms not ours. We will only overcome the evil of the radical left's woke agenda if we are working in God's power, on God's plan and God's way. God tells us a way and gives us His plan to heal our land in 2 Chronicles 7:14 *"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and heal their land."* God will not give His glory to another, and we are in a spiritual war that can only be won using spiritual weapons that come from God. Ephesian 6:12 *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

Prayer

1. Pray that we, our family, and friends would seek righteousness through our belief and trust in Jesus Christ.
2. Pray that we, our family, and friends would confess our sins on a regular basis to cleanse us from all unrighteousness and release God's power in our life through fervent effective prayer.
3. Pray that the fruits of the spirit would be seen in our lives by all those we come in contact with and that we would effectively minister to those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
4. Pray that we would read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7 once a month to reveal and remind us of the sins we need to confess and repent of.
5. Pray that we would recognize that we are in a spiritual war and that we need to put on the full armor of God to effectively fight against the spiritual forces of evil trying to destroy us and our nation.
6. Pray that our churches would wake up and aggressively speak God's truth and show God's love and mercy to others.
7. Pray that God would bring about a great revival in us, our families, Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas, the United States, and the whole world.