

Joshua 2:1-21

Christ Changes Our Tune – From the Old Song of Fear to the New-To-You Song of Forgiveness

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There are really only two songs in the world. The old and the new. Everyone starts with the old. It is a song of fear, a song of oppression and terror and anguish and woe. It is a song that Martin Luther knew all too well. It was the song of his terror midst lightning and storm. The only song he knew as a moody monk. It was all “I’m not worthy” and “Why can’t I be good enough.” “God is holy so he sure must hate me.” It’s hard to imagine that monastic Martin drinking a beer or telling a joke or even cracking a smile.

But one day he learned a different tune. A new song. Well, new to him anyway. Many many people had heard that song before. One was Rahab. Martin Luther may not have been a prostitute but he might as well have been. For he and Rahab were two pathetic peas in a pod. Two sinners sinking in the same boat. Two hopeless souls singing the same sad song. Fear. Helplessness. Death.

Rahab says it in our text. 2:9-11, “ *I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. 11 And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*”

This woman having heard of the mighty deeds the Lord had performed had been convinced that He was the only true God. She knew his power and feared it. She says “our hearts melted” and “the fear of you has fallen upon us.” She, like Luther was singing the song of the demons. They knew who God was. And trembled. What else is a sinner to do before the Holy God?

But then something changed for rahab. Like when you stumble upon some great piece of music whether by bach, beethoven, or even the beetles and you think “that’s new. I’ve never heard that before.” And so a classic becomes yours. Rahab suddenly heard a new song. The news of what the Lord had done for his people brought her to trust that this God could be her God. That these people could be her people. That His promise could be for her.

In faith she acted, hiding the spies. If the people of Jericho were alive today they would no doubt call her traitor much as the Catholic Church calls Luther the “Chief of all heretics.” But what Rahab did she did in faith. A faith given by God. A faith born from hearing that new song. The song of the wonderful works of God.

The same song that would one day play in Luther’s mind when he read those words “The just shall live by faith.” When he realized the righteousness which God requires is also a righteousness which God gives. Martin and Rahab both found a God who was not all fear and dread. But a God who smiled in the form of a cross and an empty tomb. A God whose spirit sang to them the most beautiful song to ever grace this world. A song about a red cord of promise. A song about a righteousness not my own. A song about Jesus Christ the

righteousness of God made flesh. The smile of the Lord in human form. Whose life was a virtuosic splendid symphony of grace and peace and life. Whose coming is God's answer to your cry. God's yes to your no. God's forgiveness to your sin. His faith to replace your fear. His life to your death. His symphony to your dirge.

That was the song they both sang the rest of their lives. AND it showed. It's like when you see someone jammin out to their favorite song in their car. Or when they've got their head phones on and crack that peaceful little smile. We know Luther as a beer drinking, good natured, gentle, and laughter filled man because for the rest of his days he had this best of songs. The new song of God's WORD in Jesus Christ. A song heard by many before. AND many since.

A song which is yours as well. It is God who brings this song to each of our hearts. No one can hear it for us. And as long as it has been around each one of us needs to hear it new. It must be your song. Through the Word God says "I am your God." "My Son is your savior. These promises are for you. This Song is for you."