

## **The Audacity of Faith**

Joshua 10:1-15

September 14, 2025

Can we live with unusual boldness and risk taking to do the unthinkable when it comes to fulfilling the calling God has given us in this world? Can we believe in God for accomplishing the impossible? The audacity found in faith says that we can.

### **I. Joshua's Leadership**

Making a peace treaty with the Gibeonites was a huge leadership failure for Joshua. Serious questions were being raised about him (Jos. 9:18). When Joshua received this request to come save the Gibeonites from the five Amorite kings, it involved a significant test of his leadership. What would he do?

It was imperative that Joshua not compound one bad decision with another by leading the Israelites into a battle where significant casualties would be suffered on behalf of a treacherous people. And yet Joshua makes a decision to call the army together and go on a forced march all night to save a people that the Israelites had no desire to save or risk their lives for.

How does Joshua arrive at this decision? It has to do with his calling. The Lord has chosen Joshua for this task. And that puts steel in his character so that in spite of the negative voices around him, he does what he has to do to save these Gibeonites. He does what is, for many, the unthinkable.

The Israelites recognize Joshua's God given calling and follow him into battle. Even though they were not happy with him, they knew that anyone who calls into question Joshua's leadership qualifications is really calling into question the Lord God of Israel. And so God's people do the unthinkable and follow God's leader into battle to save an ungodly people.

### **II. The Audacity of Faith: Doing the Unthinkable**

Christians in the West have adopted a position of comfortableness with regards to faith. They don't want to be stretched and challenged to do something out of the ordinary when it comes to living for Christ and his kingdom. Why this involves a number of reasons: our desire for affluence, our fears of what could happen, well-meaning voices telling us to watch out for ourselves, our resistance to change.

Faith is not about playing it safe. It is about fulfilling the calling God has given us, and doing what is for many unthinkable. Jesus was always doing the unthinkable when it came to reaching out to people with the good news of God's kingdom. Touching a leper, inviting a tax collector to be part of his inner circle, healing on the Sabbath, sacrificing himself on the cross were all unthinkable things Jesus did.

Maybe God is calling us to live with unusual boldness, risk the unthinkable in our ministry, to reach out to people around us in a way we've never done before or imagined.

### **III. The Audacity of Faith: Asking God for the Impossible**

Joshua is affirmed by the Lord in his calling, *"Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you."*

After an all-night march, Joshua took the Amorite kings by surprise. A panic overtakes the enemy. But it's not because of Joshua that the Amorites are terror stricken, it's because the Lord is fighting against them. *"The Lord hurled large hailstones down on them from the sky."*

Joshua realized the Lord is fighting for Israel, and so in the presence of the Lord he commands the sun to stand still and the moon to stop. The shocking thing about this story isn't "how" this could happen; it's that a mere man could do this. The audacity of it all is that Joshua stood before the presence of the Lord and ordered the sun to stand still. That took faith to do. The audacity of faith is the audacity to come before the Lord and ask him to do the impossible!

This is not a "name-it-and-claim-it" kind of thing going on with Joshua. Rather his desires are in total alignment with God's desires. When that happens, you can come before the Lord with boldness and ask him to act on your behalf. Joshua and Israel were fulfilling the calling God had given them; and because they were in complete submission to God's will, God's power was made available to them to do his will. That's the audacity of faith—to believe in God to do the impossible because you are completely one with God and his will and his power is made available to you.

Jesus taught this same lesson to his disciples. *"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours"* Mk. 11:23,24. No task, which is in harmony with God's will, is impossible to accomplish for those who believe. Why? Because through Jesus, God in his grace makes his power available to those who believe and act in accordance to his will.

Events of cosmic proportions have taken place to prove that God's power is made available to us through Jesus. He overcame death, rose from the grave, ascended into heaven to intercede for us before the heavenly Father and has sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower us to do his will on earth. All that is available for us today through Jesus. But it takes the audacity of faith to lay hold of it—the audacity to do the unthinkable and ask God for the impossible.