

Lesson Title: Rahab's Faith in Action

Biblical Text – Joshua 2 and Hebrews 11:31

Introduction

Do you think God can use the outcast, the sinner, or imperfect people? Have you ever been an outcast, experienced shame, or guilt? Does God still love you regardless of your past? If you ever asked yourself these questions, the story of Rahab holds the answer. Today, let's look at Rahab, the reformed and changed prostitute, who God chose for a remarkable task.

Objective 1 – To examine Rahab's faith in action overcoming fear

Objective 2 – To discover God's purpose for everyone regardless of their past

Read Joshua 2:1-7

In the first section of Joshua, we learn that Rahab receives and protects the spies. I believe it was the providence of God that let the spies to Rahab's house. It appears that Rahab was an innkeeper or perhaps a house of ill repute. In James 2:25 it states, "In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?"

It was by faith that Rahab received the spies with peace. Do you think she was afraid when the soldiers came and knocked on her door? Would you have been afraid? We know that she had taken them up to the roof and hid them under the stalks of the flax. Her faith set her above the fear of man.

Read Joshua 2: 8-21

Rahab was a smart woman who heard about the miracles of the Lord.

- Drying up the water at the Red Sea when bringing the children of Israel out of Egypt
- Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites who were destroyed

The phrase Rahab used, "**I Know**" speaks loudly. Rahab believe God had given the spies the land. Therefore, she believed that God's promises would be fulfilled. The conduct of Rahab, her boldness, is a testimony to true faith. Consider Psalms 117:2. "For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever."

Rahab was a negotiator. She made a bargain for her security. She wanted the spies to swear that kindness would be shown to her family. Verse 14 – “Our lives for your lives!” The men assured Rahab and her family for safety in exchange for her silence. As the story unfolds, we see that she let the spies down by a rope through the window. They went to the hills to hide for three days.

The scarlet cord was to be tied to the window like the blood upon the doorpost at Passover. Rahab used this cord to save herself and her family. Rahab’s faith did not falter. She did not question God and Rahab was rewarded for her obedience.

What does Hebrews 11 say about Rahab?

“By faith Rahab... did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies” (Heb 11:31). Hebrews makes it clear that it was “by faith” that Rahab did not perish. But the evidence, the proof that her faith was genuine, was that she gave a friendly welcome to the spies.

God’s Purpose

Reflecting on the introduction, we see that God was able to use Rahab despite her shady past. God used Rahab not only to save her family, but to save the spies as well.

Later, we see that God used Rahab to help mold the faith and character of a son, named Boaz. You know the story of how Boaz rescued a young Moabite widow named Ruth (Ruth Chapters 3 & 4).

But God didn’t leave Rahab outside the camp. He brought her to the center of Jesus’ family tree. Below is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,
Hezron the father of Ram,
Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,
Salmon the father of Boaz, **whose mother was Rahab.**
Matthew 1:1-5

Discussion Questions for Rahab – Faith in Action

1. Rahab had a distorted past. What whispers of her past do you think when through her mind when she provided aid to the spies.
2. How do you think Rahab's family felt about her strong stand of faith?
3. Have you been in a situation in which you stood up for your faith?
4. God redefined Rahab's past. How has God redefined your past?

Scriptures for Reflection:

Romans 8:1
I John 1:19
I Peter 1:3
1 John 3:1
1 Peter 2:9