

RAHAB
A Woman of Faith and Obedience
Joshua 2:1-21

“(s)He who has courage and faith will never perish in misery!” – Anne Frank

“Judge not, lest ye be Judged”

The book of Joshua introduces us to one of the most amazing and thought provoking women of the Old Testament. Rahab, the prostitute earned unique praise for her faith, and a place in the lineage of Christ. Certainly the faith this one woman revealed demonstrates the potential we all have; yet she also reminds us to not judge!

- How many of us would expect a great act of faith from a hooker?
- How many of us would not only have walked by her house, but crossed to the other-side of the street so as not to be contaminated?

Yet, God blessed this woman by putting her in the lineage of Christ. God's blessings come in surprising packages.

Joshua 2:1

We learn three things: Rahab is a prostitute, she lives in Jericho and the spies go to a prostitute's house while on the job. Prostitutes were social outcasts, rejected and tolerated but in no way honored.

Rahab – The Harlot

In the bible we find that some women were nameless (the Widow of Nain), and others were defined by their condition (the woman with the issue of blood). Here this woman is named and defined by her occupation

- There were two types of prostitution:
 - o The religious ones who worked at the Canaanite temple
 - o Run of the mill prostitutes who worked for cash – (Rahab)

Questions to Consider:

- Why did these men go to a prostitute's house when they were supposed to be viewing the land?
- What exactly could they spy on there?

Location, Location, Location - The Ideal Vantage Point

- Inn keepers – usually were women offering food, lodging, and amenities.

Rahab's Life Threatened – Joshua 2:3

The King of Jericho sent a message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”

A Look In The Mirror

This passage also offers an interesting mirror to other more famous "intruder" stories in the Bible.

- In Genesis Lot offers his two virgin daughters for the sexual use of a crowd instead of visitors. Gen. 19:8
- Judges the Levite will thrust his wife out of the door into the hands of a raping mob. Judg.19:22-26

Yet, when Rahab, a woman, a prostitute faces this same challenge, she responds differently.

- When the crowd comes to her door, she uses her brain to solve the problem; the men in similar stories resort to sacrificing the "least of these" in their midst.

Rahab Betrays Her Own People - Joshua 2:8-11

- She heard what the Lord had done and believed.

Rahab's Profession of Faith 2:11

- Rahab believed, confessed and acted, even though acting put her life on the line.
- Faith without works is dead

Rahab – The Lion Hearted - Joshua 2:12-13

- Rahab risked her life for strangers
- Rahab has faith not only in what God has done, and can do, but in faith of what He will do.

Act of Faith

Scarlet cord / ribbon – draped from her window

- "Though your sins are like scarlet..." Scarlet depicts a fallen woman, red light districts, if you were playing the part of a shameless hussy, what color nail polish would you wear?
- Gods grace allows us to confess our sins and let them hang out like the red thread and repent, leaving the old life behind as Rahab did, we are forgiven and washed clean, without spot or blemish.
- Red is the symbol of blood, of death flowing into life

Questions:

- Was it ok for Rahab to lie?
- How do we show our faith?
- If you identify with Rahab in some way, what names have you been called or called yourself because of your past?
 - o Do those labels still have the power to wound you?

Lessons We Can Learn From Rahab

- Our past doesn't determine our future.
- Rahab cared about her family's safety, not merely her own self.
- Obedience often requires public confession.
- Faith that's demonstrated is remembered

Scriptural References:

- Joshua 6:17, Joshua 6:22-25, Matthew 1:5, Hebrews 11:31, James 2:24-26