

"The Walk of Faith"

Part 22

11:1-40

Introduction: Tonight in our study of the book of Hebrews we have come to another example of faith which is presented by the writer of Hebrews. Let us remember this letter is written to Hebrew believers who were not growing in the faith. They were truly saved but because of the persecution which had come upon them they were contemplating going back to Judaism.

Hebrews 5:12

*¹² For when for the time **ye ought to be teachers**, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*

Hebrews 6:1a

*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, **let us go on unto perfection**;*

These believers were having a difficult time trusting God with what they were facing. The problem was they had not learned to live by faith. Their lack of faith was hindering them in many ways.

First of all they were not growing in their walk. These were believers who were in a constant state of worry because of what they were facing. Let me show you what Jesus said about worry.

Matthew 6:31-33

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Now let me show you what worry does in our lives.

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art **careful** [troubled with cares] and **troubled** [disturbed] about many things:

⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Martha was so concerned with the cares of life that she missed time at the feet of Jesus. This is exactly what happens when we allow the cares of this life to consume us. We can go through the motions of prayer and Bible reading but it is nothing more than a ritual in our lives. We get very little out of it because like Martha our thoughts are consumed with the cares of life.

Another way they were hindered was they were not able to enter into God's rest. This is only reached by trusting in Him completely. These believers were missing so much because they were not living by faith.

Now, the writer has pointed them to many examples of people who lived by faith. He pointed to Able, Enoch, Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Israel at Jericho. Tonight we come to the next example and this person is one who would shame the Hebrew believers if they lacked faith. He points next NOT to one of the nation of Israel but a Gentile. Not a man but a woman. Not just a woman but a woman who was a harlot and she exercised great faith in the face of doom and destruction.

I. The Examples of Faith

Part 19

A. The Faith of Rahab

Notice Hebrews 11:31

Rahab's faith prevented her from being destroyed with all the unbelievers in the city of Jericho. The writer tells us she received the spies with PEACE. Let us now turn to Joshua 2 to read the story of Rahab.

I want to look at several verses in the middle of this chapter to begin with and the reason is because this entire chapter revolves around these verses.

Notice Joshua 2:9-10

Rahab makes some amazing statements here in these verses. First of all she tells the spies how the city was aware of how God's hand was at work within their lives. Then she references the crossing of the Red Sea. THIS WAS 40 YEARS EARLIER!! They were aware of how Israel had defeated the 2 kings of the Amorites.

Notice Joshua 2:11

At the end of this verse we are able to see her faith in God. She did not know very much about God but she believed that He was THE GOD of the universe. So the point we need to see is that Rahab did NOT suppress the Truth which she was exposed to. All others in the city did NOT believe.

Hebrews 11:31

³¹ *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not...*

So the others in the city suppressed the Truth which was given to them but Rahab acted upon the Truth she was given. Therefore judgment would fall upon those who suppressed the Truth.

Romans 1:17-18

¹⁷ *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

¹⁸ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness:*

Now let us get back to the beginning of the chapter.

Notice Joshua 2:1

When I read this verse the first question which comes into my mind is, "Why would the spies go to a harlot's house?"

There are several answers to consider to this question.

1. This would be where they would be able to gather the latest news in the city. This would be like sitting in a barber shop or a hair salon today. These are places where people talk about what is going on.
2. The main reason why the spies came to the house of Rahab is seen in a verse from Proverbs.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

The fact that the spies ended up at the house of Rahab was nothing short of the sovereignty of God. Let me show you another picture of God's sovereignty.

Ruth 2:1-3, 19, 20

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

² *And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.*

³ *And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: **and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz,** who was of the kindred of Elimelech.*

¹⁹ *And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.*

²⁰ *And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, **Blessed be he of the LORD,** who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.*

God had directed the steps of Ruth and brought her to the field of Boaz. In the same way God directed the steps of the 2 spies and they found themselves at the house of Rahab. God knew of the faith of Rahab and so He would direct the spies right to her house because she would be saved from the judgment that would fall upon the city.

Application:

I need to stop here and make an application for our lives that will help us to better live by faith.

Just as God knew right where Rahab was and He knew what she needed so God also knows right where we are and He knows exactly what we need.

Matthew 6:25-32

²⁵ *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

²⁶ *Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*

²⁷ *Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?*

²⁸ *And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*

²⁹ *And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

³⁰ *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

³¹ *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

³² *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

God knows before we ever ask what it is that we need. We are to pray about what we face and then trust God to provide.

Philippians 4:7-7

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Notice Joshua 2:2-8

Rahab put herself in great danger by hiding the spies. But there was no fear in her heart. This was evidence of Rahab's faith. Remember the words of James?

James 2:17-18

¹⁷ *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

¹⁸ *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

Faith will always make itself known for it is impossible to conceal TRUE saving faith. True faith will stand out in the crowd for TRUE faith will go against the ways of the world.

Rahab had separated herself from the people of the city. She had accepted the Truth that she was exposed to and so her faith was seen in the way she lived her life.

This was exactly what the Hebrew believers needed to understand. They needed to totally separate from Judaism and they needed to live by faith no matter what the world around them was doing. They were to live separated lives and Rahab was an example for them to follow.

Notice Joshua 2:9-21

Rahab desired to be saved from the judgment. She asked the spies to promise she and her family would be protected when the judgment fell. She then asked for a true token. She desired something that would separate her and her house from all the others in the city. The spies instructed her to bind the scarlet rope in her window and when the judgment came the scarlet rope would separate her house from all others in the city.

It would be the scarlet rope that separated Rahab and her family.

Application:

It is the scarlet blood of Jesus Christ that separates us from the unsaved today. She was protected by the scarlet rope and we are protected from the judgment of God by the SCARLET BLOOD which Jesus shed on the cross when He died for our sins.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Conclusion:

Because of the faith of Rahab she was able to see the power and the grace of God in her life. She became an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

When we live by faith God will work within our lives in ways we could never imagine.

I want to end with one of Paul's prayers for the Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:16-21

¹⁶ *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;*

¹⁷ *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

¹⁸ *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

¹⁹ *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

²⁰ *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

²¹ *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*