

Mother's Day Message

The Faith of Rahab

Joshua 2

Introduction: On Wednesday evening in our study of the book of Hebrews we looked into the life of Rahab in Joshua 2. In the time which I spent preparing for that study God had prodded my heart to look at the life of Rahab this morning for the Mother's Day message. So that is exactly why we are in the book of Joshua today. The story of Rahab is found here in Joshua 2 and it is an amazing story. But before we get too far into this passage I want to raise a question and then answer the question.

"Why is the story of Rahab recorded in God's Word?"

1. **It shows the long suffering of God.**
2. **It shows the love of God.**
3. **It shows the grace of God.**
4. **It shows the righteousness of God.**
5. **It shows the depravity of man.**
6. **It shows the way of salvation.**

But there is one more reason which comes to my mind and this reason is the title of the message today.

"The Faith of Rahab"

Background:

Israel has come to the entrance of the Promised Land. Moses has died, Joshua is the new leader and the people have agreed to submit to his leadership. Under the leadership of Joshua the first challenge which Israel faces is the fortress of Jericho. Jericho is the gateway city which guards the southern entrance. The city was surrounded by 2 walls which were extremely large.

Now according to the military manual this entire city was under a death sentence.

Deuteronomy 20:16, 17

¹⁶ *But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:*

¹⁷ *But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:*

When God delivered this city over to Israel they were to carry out the orders in the military manual.

This is the perspective from the outside looking in.

Let me now take you on the inside.

I. **The Knowledge**

Notice Joshua 2:9-11

This news had reached the people of the city of Jericho. They knew what had happened 40 years earlier when God dried up the water in the Red Sea. They knew of Israel's victory over the 2 kings. They were aware of the power of God working on behalf of the Nation of Israel.

Now there was something which separated Rahab from the other inhabitants of the city.

Notice Joshua 2:9-11 again.

Notice the very first 2 words of 2:9. She said, "I KNOW". She believed that God would give Israel the victory and her faith was personal.

Hebrews 11:31

³¹ *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.*

Now let me explain something. Rahab and the entire city knew about God's power working with Israel. But everyone but Rahab refused to believe that God's judgment would fall upon them. Rahab knew what was coming and she believed in the power of God. So the point is that she allowed the TRUTH to have the proper place in her heart. The rest of the city 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;*

Rahab embraced the TRUTH and the rest of the city suppressed the TRUTH.

Now listen, Rahab was ONE WOMAN within this city who believed in the TRUTH which she had and God was about to honor that faith. So in what we are about to look in this text we shall see the difference one woman can make if she is willing to rest her faith in the truth of God's Word.

Application:

Rahab can be seen as the representative of many women today. Let me explain. Maybe you feel as though you are all alone in your stand for God. Maybe you are the only person in your family who has believed what the Word of God says. You have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and no one in your family understands that. They have their own beliefs. They do not believe that God would ever judge mankind because they believe He is a loving God. They have, in their own minds created their own personal God whom they believe will excuse all of their sin and will one day receive everyone into heaven. But you know better. But your faith has separated you from all those who were once close to you. That is where Rahab was at.

II. **God's Sovereignty**

Notice Joshua 2:1

Now the first question which may come into your mind is, "Why did they go to Rahab's house?" There were no doubt thousands upon thousands of people within the city of Jericho. There is one verse in Proverbs which tells us exactly why these 2 spies went to the house of Rahab.

Proverbs 16:9

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

It was God who directed these men to the house of Rahab.

Psalms 37:23

²³ *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

Now listen to what I am going to say, God knew the heart of Rahab and He knew she had not suppressed His Truth and so He would send the spies to her house so as to provide the salvation which she desired.

Application:

The application here is wonderful. God Knew what Rahab needed and He knew exactly where she was at so He sent the spies to her house. In the same way God wants you to know where you are and He knows exactly what you need in your life.

As a mother you may feel like you are often alone and that no one really knows your needs but that is not true. God knows where you are in your life and He is fully aware of our:

1. **Needs**

Psalm 34:9, 10

⁹ *O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.*

¹⁰ *The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.*

Matthew 6:25, 26, 31-33

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?*

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.*

2. **Labors**

Ephesians 6:8

⁸ *Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

Hebrews 6:10

¹⁰ For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

III. The Courage

Notice Joshua 2:2-8

Rahab took a great chance by hiding the spies. This was evidence of her faith. She knew very little about God but she knew that the men who showed up at her door were her only chance of survival so she hid them on her roof top.

This is a picture of faith in action.

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.

Application:

This is what TRUE faith looks like when it is lived out. True faith goes against the world's philosophies and the world's reasoning's. True faith stands alone if that is what is required. Let me show you the Words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount again. What I am going to show you was lived out in the life of Rahab.

Matthew 6:25-33

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.

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

Ladies this is what is needed in our families today. Not moms who live for the stuff of this world but moms who live for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Esther 4:13-16

¹³ Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

¹⁴ For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and **who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?**

¹⁵ Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

¹⁶ Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and **if I perish, I perish.**

IV. The Security

Notice Joshua 2:12-21

Rahab desired a token. A "token" was something that would set Rahab and her family apart from the rest of the city. She was given a scarlet rope. This was to be hung in her window and when Israel saw the rope they would save alive her and her family.

This SCARLET ROPE/thread is a type of the scarlet blood of Jesus Christ. We who are saved are washed in the blood of the Lamb and so the BLOOD of the Lamb sets us apart from the rest of the world.

This scarlet thread runs the entire way through the Old Testament right up to the cross of Jesus Christ. So her security was in the scarlet rope and ours is in the c=scarlet blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8, 9

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

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

V. **The Deliverance**

Notice Joshua 6:21-23

Here and her family were saved from the judgment and even beyond this Rahab had a part in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Rahab was the mother of Boaz who married Ruth.

Conclusion:

Ladies you have no idea what God will do through your life if you are willing to live by faith.

Ephesians 3:20

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