

3-9-25 Courage Over Fear

Week 2

Text: Joshua 2

Topic(s): Fear, Worthy, Transformed, Forgiveness,

Big Idea of the Message: God can save the most unlikely people and then God can take the most unlikely people and use them if only they will believe and trust God.

Application Point: God is endlessly patient and compassionate, even when we doubt, struggle, or feel overwhelmed. He meets us in our weakness, strengthens our faith, and walks with us through every uncertainty. His love never wavers, and His grace is greater than our fears.

The Book of Joshua can be divided into three divisions: (map of travel)

1. Entering the land – Chapters 1-5
2. Conquering the land – Chapters 6-12
3. Possessing the land – Chapters 13-24

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. Hebrews 11:31

Rahab is twice mentioned in the N T. In **Hebrews 11:31** she is listed in the great "hall of faith" – and is described as one whose faith proved itself by good works.

Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. James 2:25

The Bible doesn't have a whole lot to say about the life of this woman. It seems that the only account we have of her is found in Joshua **chapter 2**. Initially, it seems that Rahab isn't exactly heroine material. She is first introduced as a prostitute, not someone you would expect to be praised in the scriptures!

I'm convinced that God can use Rahab's story to show us a couple of things.

1st – God shows us that He can use anyone who is available to Him.

2nd – God shows us that He can save anyone – even Rahab.

As the 2nd chapter of Joshua opens, we find the nation of Israel – under their new leader Joshua – poised to enter the promised land. A land they had waited over 40 years to enter. Israel is camped just a few miles across the Jordan river from Jericho.

I. God can and will use anyone!

- **Read Joshua 2:1-7.**
- God proves time and again that He can use anyone who surrenders to Him. He doesn't call the qualified—He qualifies the called.

- No past is too broken, no person too ordinary. All God desires is a willing heart, and He will do the extraordinary through them.
- Who were these two men? – We don't know. They were unnamed – anonymous.
- We need to be constantly reminded that God works this way – thru ordinary people.
- God used a very ordinary, in the world's standards, Christian preschool teacher to reach Kim and me.
- God used Rehab; she had issues that would cause many to question God's decision.
- 1. **Issue one: Rahab was a Canaanite, not a Jew.** - The Canaanites were a wicked people. A people so wicked and so evil that God used Israel as his instrument to judge them. The Canaanites were idolaters.
- 2. **Issue two: Rahab was a woman.** - Women at that time were often treated as 2nd class people. They had few rights. (Much like in many Islamic countries today) In many instances they were treated as property. Yet God worked through this woman, Rahab.
- 3. **Issue three: Rahab was a prostitute.** She sold herself for money. God sees potential in every single one of us. No matter what our past.
- Rahab had all this going against her and yet she had one great redeeming factor in her favor...FAITH! Rehab believed in God.
- I have SOOO many issues, why would God to use me? Same as you, FAITH!
- **We must never** forget that God works through ordinary people. He chooses the unlikely, the overlooked, and the imperfect to accomplish His greatest purposes.
- His power is not limited by our weaknesses—He moves through those who are willing, proving that His strength is made perfect in our surrender.

II. God can save anyone!

- There are 5 qualities in Rahab's life that I want us to notice.

1. Rahab recognized the truth and courageously chose to follow God.

- **Read verses 8-11.**
- She had heard about Israel and Israel's God. But what was it that made her believe in Israel's God.
- It could have been fear – fear of death
- It could have been dissatisfaction – with the life she was living – wanting something better.
- God was moving on her heart before the spy's came to her house. She knew all about them and what God was doing.
- Maybe she was a religious person seeking true spiritual reality – A seeker.
- It's exciting to talk to an open-minded person. To someone searching for the truth.
- Occasionally someone hears that I'm a pastor and initiates a conversation. They ask about the church or why I became a minister.
- No one is beyond God's reach. He saves not based on our past, but on our willingness to trust Him.

2. Rehab showed courage by making a difficult but faithful choice.

- **Read verses 12-16.**

- She didn't have a lot of time to think about it. She had to decide right then and there.
- Salvation involves a decision on our part.
- It's one thing to believe in something and another to act upon it. That takes real faith.
- Faith requires action. When we truly believe in God, we must live out that faith, even when it's risky.

3. Rehab was willing to leave her past and become part of God's people.

- She had the courage to leave what she thought she believed in the past in the past.
- **Read verses 17-21.**
- The spies told her to hang a scarlet thread from her window. Did she understand it's significance. I doubt it.
- A Symbol of Redemption – Just as the Israelites were saved by the blood of the lamb at Passover, Rahab's family was saved by the red cord in her window.
- Sometimes God asks us to do something that we don't understand. To Rahab the scarlet thread was an outward sign of what God was going to do.
- Her faith was not in the rope – it was in God.
- God offers us a new identity in Him. No matter what our past, He can write a new future when we trust in Him.

4. Rehab cared for others and sought their safety.

- **Read verses 12-13.**
- She was willing to persuade her own family to trust in her newfound God.
- Our loved ones need to know what we believe. Mothers and fathers need to teach their children about Jesus. Rahab cared about her family.

5. Rehab's faith endured and left a legacy.

- **Read Joshua 6:22-25.**
- Rahab had to follow through on her faith.
- No longer was she a prostitute in Canaan.
- She was now a part of the people of God. A believer in the true and living God. No longer an idolater.
- If God could save someone like Rahab, despite of her religious ignorance and despite of baggage of her immoral past, if God could save someone like Rahab, God can save anyone!

Isaiah 59:1 says, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear."

- Rahab reminds us that nothing is impossible with God.
- Rahab stands with other wonderful trophies of grace that are saved from all kinds of immorality and sin.
- She was fully included in the community of God's people. The scripture says, **"and she lives among the Israelites to this day."**

- Even beyond that she later married and had children. If you trace the lineage of Jesus, Rahab is listed as a direct ancestor of the Lord. What a marvelous victory over her past and what a reminder of the wonder of God's grace.
- **James 2:21-26** used both Abraham and Rahab to illustrate the fact that true saving FAITH always proves itself by good (God) works.
- No one is beyond God's reach. He saves not based on our past, but on our willingness to trust Him.

Conclusion

Hebrews 11:31 and **James 2:25** tells us that Rahab was a woman of faith.

Matt. 1:5-6 tells us that she became the great, great grandmother of King David and a part of the lineage of Christ.

Rahab's story is a bold declaration of God's power to redeem and transform lives. As a Gentile who turned to Him in faith, she stands as a beacon of hope for all who seek mercy and forgiveness. God despises sin, but His love for people is unstoppable—especially for those the world casts aside. No past is too broken, no soul too lost; He rescues, restores, and raises up those who choose Him, proving that His grace knows no limits."

You and I have no idea what battles someone has fought, how far they've already come, or the incredible heights God can take them. Only He sees the full story—the wounds healed, the chains broken, the destiny unfolding. His power to transform is limitless, His mercy unshakable. Never underestimate what God can do in a life surrendered to Him.

"He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath." Rahab, the ex-harlot (**Joshua 2:11**)

"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more," Romans 5:20

The most important thing about Rahab and any person if their faith in God; **"without faith it is impossible to please God."**

Rahab's story is one of faith, courage, and redemption. It teaches us that:

1. **God can save anyone.**
2. **Faith requires action.**
3. **God gives us a new future when we trust Him.**
4. **He uses ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary plans.**

Just as Rahab stepped out in faith and was saved, God calls us today to trust Him completely. Will we take that step?