**1 – The Faith of Rahab**

Joshua Chapter 2

2 - ***“Faith to the preserving of the soul.”*** (Hebrews 10:39)

* In the context of the need to endure trials through faith (10:32-39), the Hebrew writer gives us examples of those who ***“assurance”*** and ***“conviction”*** (11:1) gained a ***“better reward”***.
* We read of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and finally in **Hebrews 11:31**, Rahab.
* ***“By faith, Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she welcomed the spies in peace.”***

3 - ***The Justification of Rahab***

* James also mentions Rahab as an example of faith:
* *“You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.* ***In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way****?”* (James 2:25)

4 - **Who is Rahab?**

* ***“The harlot”* - a prostitute who lived in a house on the wall in Jericho in the land of Canaan.**
* **A land thoroughly corrupted by idolatrous and moral depravity. (Note Genesis 15:16; Leviticus 18:24ff)**
* **She would have to take a stand against all of her pagan neighbors at great risk to her life and safety.**
* **Love and concern for her family. (2:13)**
* **Would someone like her seem like a good candidate for conversion?**

**5 - Who is Rahab?**

**One who did not tell the truth. (vs. 3-6)**

* **Was it ok for her to lie?**
	+ **No! (Proverbs 6:16-17; 12:22; Col. 3:9-10; Eph. 4:25)**

**Did God approve of her lie?**

* **No, she was commended by God for her faith - not her sin!**
* **Every example of faith in Hebrews 11 committed sins that could not commended.**

***“Such were some of you…”* (1 Corinthians 6:11)**

6 - **Who is Rahab?**

**One who did not tell the truth**. (vs. 5-6)

* **Wasn’t it necessary?**
	+ No, God does not need us to sin to bring about victory for His people.
	+ Did Abraham need to deceive the kings regarding his wife Sarai? (Genesis 12:13; 20:2)
	+ Illustrated by how God defeated Jericho and many other examples. (Judges 7; 2 Kings 6:15-19; 7:6)

7 - **Who Rahab Became?**

* Wife of Salmon & mother of Boaz who married **Ruth (her daughter-in-law)**. (Matthew 1:5-6)
* Her great grandson was **Jesse**; her great-great **grandson was King David**.
* **Ancestress of the Messiah**: One of **5 women** listed in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. **(Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba & Mary.)**
* **She became “one of them”.** (Joshua 6:25; cf., Ruth 1:16)
* **Who are you becoming**? How will you influence generations to come?

8 – **Rahab’s Change of Life…**

1. **Confessed belief** in Jehovah, (vs. 11)
2. **Appealed to the Lord** for help, (vs. 12)
3. **Showed kindness** to the spies, (vs. 12, 15-16; cf., Hebrews 11:24-25)
4. **Courageously hid them** and helped them escape.

9 - **The Spies…**

* Sent by Joshua “***secretly***” to view the land.
(What’s different this time? Cf., Numbers 13)
* They came to Rahab’s house and ***“lodged there”***. (vs. 1)
	+ Why there?
* Inhabitants of Jericho were aware of the spies (vs. 2) and knew that they had come to Rahab.

10 - **Rahab’s Faith**

Note what Rahab told the spies before she hid them: (vs. 9-11)

* ***“I know the Lord has given you the land.”***
* The ***“terror”*** of you has fallen on us and the inhabitants have ***“melted away”***. (Lit. demoralized)
* We’ve heard how ***“the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt”.***
* We know “***what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan… utterly destroyed***” them.
* We have ***“no courage”*** and our hearts have ***“melted away.”***

11 - **Rahab’s Faith**

**Most importantly**:

* ***“The Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”***
* A recognition of His **divine omnipotence and His divine rule among all nations of men**.
* For that reason, she “***welcomed the spies in peace***” and “***sent them out***”. (Heb. 11:31; James 2:25)
* As with Noah, Rahab believed God would bring His judgment upon wicked people and trusted His deliverance. (vs. 10, 13)

12 – **Faith & Works**

1. *“****By faith*** *Rahab…* ***welcomed the spies in peace****.”* (Hebrews 11:31)
2. “…*Rahab (was)* ***justified by works*** *when she* ***received the messengers and sent them out***.” (James 2:25)

Faith comes by hearing the word of God… God “speaks” in various forms had communicated to Rahab that she was to receive and welcome the spies.

13 - **Rahab’s “Ask”**

* *“Swear to me* ***by the Lord****, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you will* ***also deal kindly with my father’s household****, and give me a pledge of truth.”* (vs. 12; cf., Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 18:41)
* A request for **the Lord’s kindness** as she trusted that He would demonstrate His **“*severity*”** upon the wicked. (Romans 11:22; Titus 3:4)
* Think she ever told anyone else *“****what great things God has done for you****”*? (Luke 8:39)

14 - **God’s salvation**

***“Unless…”***

1. ***“You tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window…”*** (vs. 18)
	* **She did this immediately**! (vs. 21)
	* The color “***scarlet***” (Leviticus 14:4; Matthew 27:28; cf., Ex. 12:22)
2. Everyone in her family stays within ***“the doors of your house”*** and does not go into the street. (vs. 18-19; 6:22;
cf., Exodus 12:22; Numbers 35:26; Acts 27:31)
	* She/they did though it could not have been easy.
3. **Remain loyal** to God and his people and not tell ***“this business”***to anyone. (vs. 19-20; Revelation 2:10)

15 - **God’s Victory**

**Joshua Chapter 6**, the Israelites, by faith, follow God’s command to defeat Jericho (vs. 3-5)

The promise to Rahab and **her family is remembered** (vs. 17) and they are **brought out to safety** (vs. 22-23) after the city had been destroyed.

* Much like the last plague where there was death all around except where the blood had been applied to the lintel and where they had stayed inside. (note: the Israelites observed the Passover in Joshua 5:10 before their conquest of Jericho.)

Rahab *“****lived in the midst of Israel to this day****”.* (vs. 25)

16 - **Lessons Learned From Rahab**

1. **Fear must be accompanied by a complete faith.**
2. **God can forgive anyone and use anyone, if they will turn to Him in trusting, obedient faith!**
	* **The choice of life or death belongs to each one of us! (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)**
3. **We must believe not only in the salvation God provides but in His divine judgment.**
4. The “***kindness and severity of God***”!
5. **The need for urgent and complete and continual submission to God.**