

Study of Hebrews #57
“Living by Faith: Rahab”
Text: Hebrews 11:31

I. Introduction and review

1. Joshua’s encounter with “the Commander of the Lord’s Army”
2. The conquest of Jericho
 1. Reminders of basic truths
 - a. God’s ways are often not our ways
 - b. With God all things are possible
 - c. The battle belongs to the Lord
 2. Marks of Biblical faith: obedience, fearlessness, self-control, silence before God, patience, God-centeredness

II. The salvation of Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21)

1. Rahab’s lie (vs. 4-7)
2. Rahab’s confession (vs. 10-11)
3. Rahab’s obedience (v. 18)
4. Rahab’s scarlet cord (vs. 18, 21)
5. Rahab’s destiny (Matthew 1:1-6)

III. Some wonderful reminders

1. God’s grace is truly, utterly, breathtakingly amazing!
2. God saves whomever He pleases.
3. With God all things are possible.

IV. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. Kent Hughes:

- *It is most significant that the final person to receive individual commentary in the list of champions of faith is a woman and a Gentile and a prostitute. Rahab's faith, a prostitute's faith, is given as an example for all who desire to have true faith—especially those who know they are sinners and who deep down want to be pleasing to God.*
- *Often real faith is salted with sin, and God finds faith where we do not (and often cannot) see it. We should be slow to judge sin and quick to perceive faith.*

2. John MacArthur:

It was not right for Rahab to lie about where the Israelite spies were. Even though her heart was open to God's saving truth, her knowledge of Him was extremely limited. She was the victim of her own fallen nature, and her ethics were those of the corrupt Canaanite culture. She did not understand the value God puts on truth. He honored her faith, but her lie was unnecessary. No lie provides any assistance to God.

Rahab also would have been unaware of the sinfulness of lying because the laws of Eastern hospitality surpassed the laws of honesty. Honoring and protecting your guests was the greatest moral imperative. When someone was sheltered in your home, even your greatest enemy, you were bound to save his or her life if you could.

Therefore, it was not God's will that Rahab lie to rescue the scouts – He could have and would have saved them anyway. But she did so, and none of us will know what other providential means or miraculous methods God might have used to preserve the two men otherwise.

3. Simon Kistemaker:

Hers was a simple but basic confession. She believed in God and trusted in him to deliver her from the impending destruction of her people and her city.

4. A. W. Pink:

Thus, from being the slave of Satan she was adopted into the family of God; from being a citizen of heathen Jericho she was given a place in the congregation of the Lord... Her name is inscribed upon the imperishable scroll of sacred history; it is recorded in Matt. 1 among the ancestresses of the Savior—she was one of the mothers of Jesus! From what depths of sin and shame did sovereign grace deliver this poor woman; to what a height of honor and dignity did sovereign grace elevate her. Truly, the rewards of faith are most excellent and glorious.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- **Acts 5:29**
- **Rom. 10:17**
- **Josh. 2:1; 6:17; 6:22; 6:25; James 2:24-25**
- **Titus 2:11-14**
- **Matt. 21:31-32; Ex. 33:19; Rom. 9:18**