

Text: Joshua 2:1-18, Hebrews 11:31

Meaning: Through one act of obedience God rewrote Rahab's story

Big Idea: God is in the business of rewriting stories

Objective: I want the hearers to respond with an act of obedience

Theme:

Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute. But she placed her faith and trust in the God of the Hebrews, Yahweh God, and put her life on the line by harboring the Hebrew spies and as a result God rewrote her story. She eventually married a prominent Hebrew leader and became the great great grandmother of King David through whom would come Jesus the Messiah.

THROUGH ONE ACT OF OBEDIENCE TO GOD RAHAB'S LIFE WAS CHANGED FOREVER.

SO TOO, TODAY, THROUGH ONE ACT OF OBEDIENCE YOUR LIFE CAN BE CHANGED FOREVER.

READ JOSHUA 2:1-14, 18

LESSONS FROM RAHAB:

PROCLAIMED HER FAITH IN THE LORD

She declared that the LORD your GOD, He is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

Hebrews 11:31

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

Rahab had heard the stories of God's miraculous deliverance of His people from Egypt and how He parted the waters of the Red Sea. She had heard what God had done to Sihon and Og in the wilderness because of their harsh treatment of the people of God. She had

heard of the miracle working God of the Hebrew people, and she was tired of the idols and false gods around her.

RAHAB BELIEVED THOSE WALLS WERE COMING DOWN!

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen! Without faith it is impossible to please God!

Church – if the mission is man-sized it is not of faith! Only a GOD-SIZED mission gives glory to God!

I know a God who can create the universe in 6 days. I know a God who parts the waters of the Sea. I know a God who gives manna in the wilderness. I know a God who makes impenetrable walls fall to the ground. I know a God who makes the Sun stand still so the people of God can defeat their enemies. I know a God who sleighs giants through teenagers. I know a God who turns water into wine. I know a God who makes the blind to see and the lame to walk. I know a God who can feed 5000 men with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. And I know a God who can raise people from the dead!

That's the God we serve! There's nothing that our God can't do!

PUT HER LIFE ON THE LINE

Rahab went all in for God because of her faith. When the King of Jericho knocked on her door everything was on the line. If the spies were found she too would be killed along with them. She was so convinced the Hebrews were right and their God was the one true God that she willingly put her life on the line for God and his people.

Consider this also, Rahab also put her life on the line by trusting the spies. The easiest and safest thing for the spies to do was to kill Rahab. This way there wasn't a chance of someone telling the King. Why would she do that? BECAUSE SHE TRULY BELIEVED THE GOD OF THE HEBREWS WAS THE ONE TRUE GOD!

James 2:24-26

You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

This is why I believe she is hailed as such an example of faith for us in Hebrews 11, James 2, and Matthew 1.

Beloved, we have great men and women of the Bible who were willing to SACRIFICE IT ALL because of their love for Jesus. Loving God is not merely philosophical or sentimental. Loving God is TANGIBLE! How we serve, give, and live every day is evidence of our true love for God. What we do with the time, the money, the resources, and the relationships God has blessed us with is indicative of what we think about our God!

PREPARED IMMEDIATELY FOR THE LAUNCH

Before Joshua and the army of Israel even crossed the Jordan Rahab had the scarlet thread tied up in her window. As soon as those spies left her home she tied that scarlet thread up, and every day from the time those spies left until the day the Hebrew army showed up and began marching around those walls Rahab looked at that thread and knew God would come through for her.

Scripture says that Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things unseen.

FAITH PLANS ON WHAT IT HOPES FOR. WHERE THERE ARE NO PLANS THERE IS NO FAITH.