The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 5, 2016

“The Unsung Heroes: Great Lessons From the Lesser Known ~ Rahab: A Life Transformed”

Joshua 2:1-24

“Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying: ‘Go, view the land, especially Jericho.’ So they went, and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and spent the night there.” (Joshua 2:1)

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3 POSSIBLE REASONS THEY WENT INTO A BROTHEL

- It was ____________________
- It was a good place to get ____________________
- _______________________ led them there.

RAHAB IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- She is mentioned in the _________________ of Jesus, as the mother of Boaz and the great-great grandmother of King David.

- She is one of only two _________________ mentioned in a long list of Old Testament heroes made righteous by faith in Hebrews 11:31.

“It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.” (Hebrews 11:31)

Despite her sordid ____________, many biblical commentators have viewed Rahab as a model of ____________, mercy, ____________, patience, and repentance in her interaction with Joshua’s spies.

Rahab’s story is a story of a changed ____________ and a changed life—someone who was ________________ by faith.

This ________________ of Jericho became a paragon of ________________.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF RAHAB

Lesson #1: Faith is often born out of ________________.

3 STRIKES RAHAB HAD AGAINST HER

Strike #1: She was a ________________ living in a patriarchal society.

Strike #2: Her ____________________ background.
Rahab was not a Jew—she was a ________________. An outsider, in a time when Jewish law strictly forbade any kind of interaction with foreigners.

“...when the Lord your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy. You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters, for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods…” (Deuteronomy 7:1-4)

Strike #3: Her ________________ background. Rahab was a prostitute.

“In this most unlikely of places, this ________________, spiritually dark and wicked city, in this most unlikely, ________________, person, true faith was found.

“We’ve heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to Sihon and Og the two kings of the Ammorites east of the Jordan whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it our hearts sank and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and in earth below.” (Joshua 2:10)

She could have ________________ the rumours about Israel’s God, like the rest of the people in Jericho, however, Rahab was convinced that the God of Israel was a God who was not only ________________, but who’d proven the reality of His existence in powerful ways.

Not only did she confess ________________ in God, she believed that it was within His ________________ and purpose to ________________ the land of Canaan—including the city of Jericho—to His people.

“I know that the Lord has ________________ this land to you.” (Joshua 2:8)

Rahab shows greater faith in God than the ________________ that Moses sent out 40 years earlier.

“...‘We can’t go up them! They are stronger than we are!’ So they spread this bas report about the land among the Israelites.” (Numbers 13:31)

Even though she hadn’t been a believer for long and had not fist had experience of the power of God, Rahab’s faith was ________________.
“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

Her faith was based entirely on who God ___________________ and not on anything He’d ______________________ for her.

Rahab reminds us that no one is beyond God’s __________________–no one is beyond His saving ____________________.

“The arm of the Lord is not too short that it cannot save, nor his ear to dull that it cannot hear.” (Isaiah 59:1)

If God can reach a woman like Rahab–He can reach anyone–nothing is ________ for God!

Do you have a Rahab in your life–a friend, family member, colleague–maybe it’s you–someone who you think will never come to God because of who they are or what they’ve done?

Lesson #2: Faith is authenticated by ____________________.

Faith is about so much more that just intellectual ____________________ to a series of doctrines or creeds.

“Now someone may argue, ‘Some people have faith; others have good deeds.’ But I say, ‘How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.’” (James 2:18)

James uses Abraham and Rahab as examples of people whose faith was authenticated by their ________________.

“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. Just as the body is dead without breath, so faith without works is dead.” (James 2:25)

When a person has ________________ faith, it will manifest itself in the person’s life in ________________ ways.

Our knowledge of God has to go from being head knowledge to having an effect on how we ________________ live.

THE GENUINENESS OF RAHAB’S FAITH

• In her dealings with the spies–both in the ________________ she faced and the ________________ she made.

She could ______________________ her new-found faith, turn to her old ways, and hand the spies over to the authorities, thereby avoiding being seen as a traitor and facing the penalty of death. Or she could remain ______________________ to her new-found faith, put her own life at ______________________ and, help the spies.

Like Rahab, our lives should be an __________________ of the faith we profess–what we do Monday to Saturday should ______________________ what we do in this place on Sunday.

• In her __________________ for family.

“Since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family Give me a sign of good faith that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” (Joshua 2:12-13)

Do I have the same concern for the spiritual safety of my family and friends? Do I care about those who live outside of the household of faith and do not know God? Is there an urgency in me to share my faith with them and invite them into the same kind of relationship with God that I have?

The story of Rahab shows us that the ________________ of our future don’t rest on us being worthy, they rest on the fact that nothing is impossible for God.

God sees all of our weaknesses, shortcomings, and mistakes, but He also sees our ________________. He see what we can become.

Rahab’s story also points to God’s ability to change, ________________, and make new.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has passed away, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

What’s keeping you from becoming a great man or woman of God–what’s keeping you from becoming a hero of faith?