

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 5, 2016**  
**“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)

**Zana =**

**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 unpromising \_\_\_\_\_.**

**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.**

“Do not defile your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will be filled with prostitution and wickedness.” (Leviticus 19:29)

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 given 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 first 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 than 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)

“Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, ‘Go into the prostitute’s house, and bring the woman out of it and all who belong to her, as you swore to her.’ So the young men who had been spies went in and brought Rahab out, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her—they brought all her kindred out—and set them outside the camp of Israel...But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared. Her family has lived in Israel ever since. For she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.” (Joshua 6:22-25)

**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 sees 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?**