

Life Lessons from Rahab

Various Scriptures

"By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace." -Hebrews 11:31

As we continue our life lessons Bible study series, this week our example comes from a woman named Rahab. While we often look at one's beliefs, background, education and occupation as a means of validation, this story however reminds us all that God can use _____. He wants to accomplish His will. With that in mind, let us remember to ask ourselves what does God want me to know, feel and do as a result of this study.

Did you know?

* Rahab (loose term) means arrogant, raging, turbulent, afflicter; primeval sea monster representing the forces of chaos that God overcame in creation. Job 9:13; 26:12; Psalm 89:10; Isa. 59:10; Symbolic name of Egypt Psalm 87:4

* Rahab personal name meaning "broad", this is also another word used for _____.

* Rahab is listed in the genealogy of Christ. Matthew 1:1,5; Ruth 4:13,21

* Rahab is listed among those who demonstrated their faith. Hebrews 11:31

* Her story is told in Joshua 2, 6:22-23; she is also mentioned in Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; and James 2:25

Methods of Rahab Joshua 2:1-7

Moses has passed away, but God commands Joshua to lead the nation of Israel into the promised land. In preparation for their conquest Joshua secretly sends _____ spies to view the land especially _____. So verse 1 says they went to the house of a harlot named Rahab.

Why do you think they went into the house of a prostitute? 2:15

One thing leads to another and the king of Jericho discovers that the Israelites are spying out their land and hiding in Rahab's house. He sends his men but Rahab acts deceitfully by lying. Verses 4-7

What are your thoughts about Rahab lying? Is it ever okay for us to lie today? If so, how do you reconcile with scriptures like Proverbs 12:12; Colossians 3:9-10?

In light of the text, God forgave Rahab's lie for several possible reasons:

1. She was _____ God's people.
2. She was not a _____.
3. She was deceiving their _____.
4. Her faith in _____.

Mind of Rahab Joshua 2:8-11

After the king's men were sent out in the wrong direction, Rahab came to the spies and spoke her mind. Notice the three things Rahab knew:

She knew who the LORD was...

- * In control (verse 9)
- * Worked miracles (verse 10)
- * Defeated their enemies (verse 10)
- * Maker and creator (verse 11)

She knew who they were...

- * God's people (verse 9)
- * Their reputation (verse 9-10)

She knew how it made them feel...

- * Terrified (verse 9)
- * Fainthearted (verse 11)
- * Discouraged (verse 11)

As you consider those things Rahab knew about God, the reputation of the Israelites, and how it made them feel, do you think this present age takes God, the message of salvation, and His judgment serious? Why or why not?

Motive of Rahab Joshua 2:12-13

After Rahab shared what she knew and poured her heart out to the spies she _____ them to take an oath. Why did Rahab want to take an oath with the men from Israel? What was her number 1 motive? _____

So together Rahab and the spies made a promise. "Our lives for yours"

Notice the conditions of their promise: verses 14, 17-21

- * The reason for their visit had to be kept a _____. In other words, Rahab couldn't tell anyone.
- * She had to hang a scarlet cord in her window. (Biblical theme?) Genesis 38:27-30; Exodus 12:13; Exodus 26:1; Joshua 2:21; Matthew 1:3
- * All of her family had to be in _____ house at the time when Israel attacked Jericho.

The time had come for Israel to take the city and as they were destroying everything in Jericho Joshua _____ their promise with Rahab and her whole family was spared. Joshua 6:22-23

Although Rahab was an unusual woman she was nonetheless just right to be used by God. All of the odds were stacked against her. As a prostitute woman she was more than likely viewed as a second class citizen. Secondly, she didn't have a position of

authority and she was more than likely viewed as untrustworthy. Through it all she was a woman of her word and a woman of _____ because she believed in the God of heaven and earth. James 2:25

In reflecting on this story, why do you feel some Christians have reservations about "certain" types of people being used by God? What actions are you willing to take to discourage those reservations?

What is your biggest takeaway from today's lesson that you are willing to share with others?

Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. -St. Augustine