

FAITH IN AN ALMIGHTY GOD

Joshua 2

Introduction

Introduce ch. 2 – Preparation to enter the Promised Land. In this chapter we see the first step to that life of victory and rest that comes with the Promised Land life.

Yet there is another part to this story – it is a story of faith, and a story of God’s mercy. It is the story of a most unlikely hero – someone you would never expect to be used in carrying out God’s great and lofty purposes. It is the story of Rahab – the prostitute.

Let’s look at the text – read v. 1 – *discuss the spies, etc.*

I want us to consider Rahab for a few moments – who was she? Some things we know, some we can only assume from the things we are told. We know nothing about her ancestry, except she was a Canaanite.

- She was a prostitute/harlot – Hebrew – *zawnaw* – means to commit fornication, to play the harlot
- But, it appears that she was also a businesswoman. Two things – flax, red cord. (Linen, dye rope). The word scarlet is literally the name of an insect from which the red dye was taken for the coloring of fabric. She was probably a maker and seller of cloth.

But ... she was also a woman of faith – faith in a God she didn’t really even know, faith in an almighty God.

Heb 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Faith is the vital component in knowing God and living a life of victory. And the kind of faith that pleases God is seen in Rahab, in spite of her background and in spite of her lack of knowledge.

There are three aspects to this faith that we see in Rahab. Three crucial elements of a faith that pleases God. The first is...

The Decision of Faith vv. 2-7

You see, true faith, victorious faith, living faith, begins in the heart and the mind. It begins with a decision. *Read vv. 2-7.*

Discuss what took place in these verses:

- Rahab’s decision to hide and protect the spies. It indicates ...
- Rahab’s decision to trust the God of Israel rather than the strength of Jericho to save her.
- Her incomplete and confused sense of morality.

Application – a decision of faith. Somewhere, probably before the spies ever arrived, she had decided that her only hope for survival was to put her trust in the God of the Hebrews. It was a decision she made. It is a decision we must make, as well. Have you decided that, no matter what you may face, that you must trust in God rather than yourself and your own ability? Until you make that decision you will never be able to please God.

A Declaration of Faith vv. 8-13

Not only is faith a matter of the mind, but it is also a matter of the mouth. We must be willing to talk about it.

In these verses Rahab openly confessed her faith in the God of Israel. She verbalized the decision she had made.

Go through these verses, examining Rahab’s confession:

- She was declaring her belief that the God of the Hebrews was the true God.
- She was throwing herself on the mercy of these men, and ultimately on the mercy of God.
- She was declaring that she would not and could not trust any other.

She declared her faith in a God she did not really know, but a God I’m sure she came to know intimately in the years that followed. She didn’t know him but she knew enough about him to know that she could trust him, and she declared that trust.

Application – Have you ever made that public declaration of faith in the God of Heaven and in His Son, Jesus Christ? Or is your faith a secret.

Matt 10:32-33 – “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

It is a rather poor faith that is ashamed to declare itself. I say that to my own shame, as there have been many times I have been afraid to declare my faith in Jesus Christ.

There must be a decision of faith...

There must be a declaration of faith.

A Demonstration of Faith vv. 15-21

Faith begins in the heart and mind, with a decision. It continues in the mouth as we declare that faith. But faith also involves our actions. There must be a demonstration of faith.

Go through verses – Discuss how Rahab demonstrated faith.

- She demanded and received a promise of safety from the spies.
- She sent the spies away safely.
- She tied the scarlet cord in the window.
- She waited for God’s deliverance.

It seemed foolish. She lived right on the wall. It would be the first area destroyed, when the city came under attack. Yet she showed her faith in her actions.

A demonstration of faith – without it faith is empty, impotent.

James 2:18-26 – look at it and discuss briefly.

Application - Is your faith evident in the way you live? I have to ask myself that question. It is easy to say I trust God, but then to live and to plan my life with a backup plan in case he doesn’t come through.

Rahab didn’t live her life that way. Her plan was to trust the God of the Hebrews to save her, and there was no Plan B if that failed.

Conclusion

So what was the result? *Briefly describe what happened when Jericho was taken and also what became of Rahab.*

Rahab left her life of sin, became the wife of Salmon → Boaz (Ruth) → Obed → Jesse → David. (Matt. 1) She is listed in the ancestry of Jesus Christ.

Rahab, through faith in God, became a part of God’s covenant people. She entered into the Promised Land life of victory, but she did it by faith. Turn for a moment to Heb. 11 – the heroes of faith.

Verse 31 – read and discuss

The first step to the life of victory is to come to God in faith believing Him.

Rom 10:9-10 – “...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Are you ready for eternity? Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ?