

The Faith of Rahab

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[0 : 0 0] Okay. Okay. Amen. We're going to pick right back up where we've been going through the book of Hebrews in chapter 11. And so I'd like you to find that passage again.

I stopped counting how many different Wednesday nights we've been spending in this chapter. But today we're making our way all the way up to verse 31.

And this will be actually the last individual example. And from here forward it just kind of lumps a lot of people together.

And just saying this could go on for a long time from the rest of this chapter. But verse 31, we're going to pick it up today. It's been a few weeks, but last week we looked at the walls of Jericho coming down.

And we saw that that took place by faith, as all of these examples are about faith. And what we recognize that in that day there was a new leader. There was a new kind of battle with new tactics that God was going to use.

[1 : 0 4] Not their military might, not military wisdom, but they were going to trust him and obey his voice. And we related that to the Christian life because it's a new life with a new man.

And it's new battles that are going to be faced in this new life. And as a result, you're going to have to use new tactics. And what we studied from the passage back there was, what we studied rather applying that thought of new tactics for this Christian life and the battles, the fighting, the good fight of faith, was that one of the greatest things we have is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And that's the power of God unto salvation. And preaching the gospel is absolutely the best thing you can do. It is what gets the job done. It's not your intellect and it's not your ability to argue.

It's not your ability to be the loudest voice. It's rather the powers in the truth of the gospel. And if you want to see the walls come down of indifference and the walls come down of unbelief and the walls come down of pride in a lost or unbeliever's life, then preach the gospel to them.

The second thing we saw was prayer was another weapon there by faith. And it's one that the Bible says, it availeth much. And the final thought from walking around that city of Jericho those seven times was to let your walk do the talking.

[2 : 1 9] They weren't allowed to talk at all, if you remember that, on those days. And the idea was you don't need to do the talking sometimes. Sometimes they won't let you do the talking. And I gave you an example in my own grandparents' life.

When my parents were trying to witness to them, they finally said no more. And so they let their walk do the talking. And it was powerful. It took time, though. It was walk around the city one time, not say a word, and go back to your tents.

And that's what it's going to be for you two on the job and in front of your lost relatives. It's going to have to be a testimony for Jesus Christ that does some speaking and gets in deeper than sometimes your words.

Now, today we'll take a look at the next verse, which is about a woman that lived upon that wall of Jericho. She was a Gentile. She was a harlot. Her name was Rahab. And you wouldn't expect such a woman as that to appear in this list for Hebrews to be considering and convincing them of faith in the Old Testament.

But nevertheless, this example here has something to teach us. So verse 31, let's read it together. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not when she had received the spies with peace.

[3 : 27] So them that believed not did perish. And we can study this in Joshua and read the story, and we'll get to that shortly.

They did perish. They were destroyed with the edge of the sword. But Rahab, on the other hand, did not perish with them. In this passage, it was by faith because she received the spies with peace.

Now, the story is found back in Joshua chapter 2 and in Joshua chapter 6. And so you might as well find your place back to that chapter. We're going to get into this a little bit and take a look at Rahab tonight and try to glean something from why she gets spotlighted in this hall of faith, this Gentile harlot woman from Jericho.

So find Joshua chapter 2. And we'll get to that here in a moment. Rahab got word that destruction of her city and of her people and of her family and just deducing it of herself, her own life, was on the way.

Death is coming. Like the old song we sing says, death is coming, hell is moving. And there was Rahab understanding that the God of the Hebrews is against us and he's against my city.

[4 : 58] And the place I was raised in and the people that I know and my family and friends and my king and everybody, he's coming to get us. And he's going to destroy us. And she had a choice on the table.

Do I believe this message? Do I believe all the rumors of the Red Sea and of the conquering of the Amorites and the kings, was it Sihon and Og, kings of Bashan, I think?

Do I believe all that and am I going to be afraid of that? Is this just a bunch of fairy tales? Is this just a bunch of hyped up drama to get us afraid? Or is this real? Is this real or not?

And so should I turn these men over to the authorities? She had some men show up. Look at chapter 2 and verse 1. Now, I have no real understanding or reason why they ended up there.

It seems like it's possible that it's kind of a place you wouldn't really announce. And people are good at keeping secrets in that kind of house or lodging.

[6 : 11] And so maybe that's a good place to be undercover and nobody's going to really raise an eye for some strange men to be around. That makes sense. So two men show up and she lodges them in her home.

And she believed that receiving and assisting these spies was her way of escaping an otherwise inevitable destruction, certain death.

And she believed if I take care of these men and send them on their way safely and let them do what they're here to do, it's going to be in my benefit. And so I want to consider some things about her faith here and stay in this chapter and look at this here.

First of all, by faith she received the spies, right? That was right there in the text. She received the spies and she did it by faith. She wasn't playing the harlot by lodging these two men.

She was actually colluding with them. She was working with them in their undercover operation. Rahab the harlot recognized the situation.

[7 : 13] She saw how it was going to end for her. And so by faith she worked with the enemy as it would have appeared. She worked with the people of God.

She hid them. She covenanted with them. She deceived her king. Look at verse 2. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country.

And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house, for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I was not whence they were.

I didn't know anything about them. And it came to pass about the time of shutting a gate. It was dark. The men went out. That's a lie. That's not true. She's deceiving her king. And she says, I don't know where they went.

Pursue after them quickly. You shall overtake them. Now the rest of this chapter, at least the next few verses, says, well actually, when she hid them, she took them up to the roof of the house, verse 6, and hid them in the stalks of flax.

[8 : 16] And the men take off pursuing after nobody. Never going to find the men, because they're up on the roof still hiding. And then she talks to them. Let's read what she says to them, and just get a real understanding of her mindset.

In verse 8, before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof, and she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt, and what you did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side, Jordan, Sihon, and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts did melt. Neither did there remain any more courage in any man because of you. For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and in earth beneath. And then she says, Now, here's what I want you to do for me.

I want you to spare me. And I want you to spare my father, and my mother in verse 13, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have and deliver our lives. And they made a pact.

[9 : 22] They made a covenant saying, Okay, well, if you don't tell our business to anybody, and you let us get away scot-free, then when we come back, you're right. We are going to destroy this place, but we'll save you alive.

And everybody that's in your house, and you know the story. I trust you've read this. You put this line that you let us down by out of the window to escape. You put that scarlet line in the window, and then we'll know, and that'll be the sign that you're on board with us, and we're not going to destroy you.

So she did this all by faith. This woman recognized the situation. By faith, she worked with them. She hid them. She covenanted with them, deceived her king, as I said.

She even advised their escape, even misleading the king and the pursuers to throw them off of their trail. And she did this by faith, receiving the spies.

She wasn't remaining faithful to her king. She wasn't remaining faithful to her country. She didn't go to her temple and sacrifice. She didn't cry out to her gods to deliver her from the God of the Hebrews.

[10 : 25] She saw that she was on the losing side. Note all of this language. It's got a point to it as it comes around. So pick this up. She is going to perish.

But she had a choice. And she received those spies by faith. Rahab's a picture of a sinner. And a sinner she was.

And so are we. And before the destruction and the judgment that came upon that city, before it ever arrived, God sent forth, Joshua sent forth some unsuspecting, unannounced visitors, some spies.

It reminds me how God sent forth his son. Undercover, unannounced, hidden from the wise and the prudent. And he came into this world to save sinners like Rahab.

And if a sinner will receive him, he promises to rescue that sinner from the second death. Those spies represent, in a way, Jesus Christ.

[11 : 26] We'll get into that a little bit later, the typology of it all. But while you're in chapter 2, take a look at verse 16. She said unto them, that is these spies, she says, Get you to the mountain.

Reminds me of Jesus Christ going to the Mount Calvary. Lest the pursuers meet you and hide yourselves. Look at that. There are three days. How the Lord Jesus Christ, after Calvary, was out of view for three days and three nights until the pursuers be returned.

And afterward, may ye go your way. After the resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ did go his way until a time that he pledged to return. Now we'll come back to that typology in a little bit later.

But what do we learn about faith here? Well, first of all, it takes faith to look ahead. It takes faith to see ahead and believe that destruction is coming.

And if I stay the way I'm staying and where I'm staying, I'm going to perish with the rest of them that believe not and perish. Because the destruction's imminent. And it takes faith to make it, we call this, to make a business decision for your soul to save your neck before that day arrives.

[12 : 38] To covenant with the one that can deliver you from death and from perishing with them that believe not. For you and I that know and understand the gospel, it's a real simple story of how salvation is and how it operates to see what lies ahead for you as a sinner is not good at all.

And that you will, in fact, perish. But God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth that him should not perish but have everlasting life.

And by faith, we find there's one way out. There's an opportunity to escape, to take Jesus Christ as our Savior. And that has to be done by faith. You can't have that without faith.

You can't receive the spies. You can't receive the messengers of the gospel, the good news, the deliverance without faith. And so that's pretty simple and pretty understood.

But there's something else. Look at verse number 23. And I'm in the wrong chapter.

[13 : 43] Sorry. Chapter 6 and verse 23. Remember she asked them to save her father and brethren. In chapter 6, they do show up and they do all of this compassing the city round and the walls fall down.

And in chapter 6 and verse 23, it says, And the young men that were spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and her mother and her brethren and all that she had and they brought out all her kindred and left them without the camp of Israel.

Do you know what else I want to say about Rahab? By faith, she reached sinners. She reached some other people. She didn't just selfishly save her own neck and enjoy the relief.

Oh, I can lay my head down at night just with peace because I know that I'm not going to perish. They're going to take me out of here before the destruction. She didn't just lay down and say, Oh, it feels good to know that I'm going to be saved and delivered.

But no, she had to get somebody else. Do you know that, do you suppose that she tricked her parents and family to coming to her house? The Bible says her house was upon the wall. How do you think she got them to come to where her lodging was?

- [14 : 55] I think she said, let's have a cookout. The Hebrews are marching around the city. The priests are blowing with the trumpets and the horns and they're carrying the ark of God.
- My, how afraid they are. I don't think they're going to lodge on the wall with her. It's like too close for comfort. I would imagine it's just, they'd rather keep that bit out of sight.
- I can't see them coming to the house being tricked or for any reason. Look at chapter 6 and verse number 1. I'll give you a little idea of what's going on.
- In chapter 6 verse 1 says, now Jericho was straightly shut up because of the children of Israel. None went out and none came in. The enemy has shut them in.
- I don't think her mother and father and friends are saying, let's go to Rahab's house and celebrate or hang out with her on the wall. It's like too close for comfort, close to the threat. Look at chapter 2.
- [15 : 56] And look back at what they, we just read this a little bit ago, verse number 11, remind you of the mindset of the people of the city. Chapter 2 verse 11, she tells these spies, as soon as we had heard these things of how they destroyed these kings and crossed the Red Sea, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man because of you.
- This is a scary time. Everybody in that city of Jericho that is shut up and shut in and cannot get in and out for business or for pleasure, they're locked in there, everybody's on high alert.
- They're not comfortable. There's no more courage in their men. Their warriors are scared, they're shaking, their hearts are melting with fear. How did she get her kindred to come over and come into her house upon the wall?
- How do you suppose, I'm going to suppose she had to convey the situation that she had experienced. She had to tell them about the spies. She had to tell them that they made a promise to her.
- She had to tell them that whoever I get to come with me in my house will be spared. She's trusting in their word that it's true and it's reliable and she doesn't have any other hope.
- [17 : 14] She doesn't have any other options. She says, I'm believing that is good enough to save me alive and she had to have conveyed that situation to her family and convince them that there's a way of escape.
- Come into my house. I think everything in them would say, I'm not getting anywhere near that wall. That's getting too close to the danger zone. And yet there they went to her home and to her house.
- She must have declared what had happened to her and they believed and saw an opportunity for themselves to be saved as well.
- Notice in chapter 2 that this family was her first and primary concern. Look at chapter 2 in verse 12. Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house and give me a true token, and that ye will save alive my father and my mother and my brethren and my sisters and all that they have and deliver our lives from death.
- Her immediate concern was her immediate family. That just seems very instinctive to me. By faith, she reached them.
- [18 : 34] She reached sinners. You can't force them to get in the house with you. She can't make them and twist their arm, but she can tell them what's going to happen.
- She can tell them what she experienced. She can tell them she believes it. It's a way for them to escape, and if they'll take it, they'll be saved too. She reached them.
- I think Rahab was probably the black sheep of the family, the harlot. It's hard to believe she's making mom and dad very proud, but they're pretty hopeless right now too.

They're getting pretty desperate too. times are not looking good for anybody, and now Rahab has a message of deliverance, of salvation, something she believes.

She's got some assurance about this. She's not afraid to tell them, and I think their hearts fainted, and they were open to hear what Rahab was preaching.

[19 : 36] Isn't this really a good picture, a true, if Rahab pictures the sinner, isn't it so instinctive for any sinner that gets saved to just immediately think of their family?

Isn't that true with you, when you first got saved and you saw what this was, that just as soon on one hand you knew that your destiny is sealed and you're on your way to heaven, you knew on the other hand that means as of yesterday I wasn't and everybody else that doesn't know this truth and you start to look at your mother and your father and your brother and your sister and your children and your grandparents and the people in your life, the ones you care about, you start to look at them and say, they need to hear this too.

By faith she conveyed that situation. By faith a new believer meets Jesus Christ and his word promises them eternal life for everybody that believes and they realize the gods can't save us, the king can't save us, we're going to perish here but I found a way to escape and they tell their parents, they tell their brothers and their sisters, they want them to not perish with them that believe not.

By faith Rahab perished not with them that believe not and neither did her father neither did her mother neither did her brethren and all that she had and all her kindred.

You know, when you see somebody in your family get saved and when you have that assurance and when you have that unity and that bond of salvation it's so relieving, isn't it, to just be like, I know they're saved now, praise the Lord and I know they're saved now, thank God and there's others we need to work on and pray for but there's just such a blessing.

[21 : 30] Can you see the relief and the joy that Rahab gets when the city walls come down and those men come and find her and say, come on, you're all free to go, you're delivered and she knows mom and dad got in the house.

Brother and sister believed what I told them and they came and they got in the house and so she didn't just receive those spies, she also reached some sinners with the message that she believed and then there's something else I want to point out in this chapter building up to this, by faith she remained steadfast.

You might say, well why, what do you mean she remained steadfast over what, what did she really do? Well, the spies took off. They went down the wall and they went up the mountain and they laid low for three days.

They took off but she didn't escape that day. She stayed where she was. She actually had to cover for them. She didn't get rescued that night.

She didn't get rescued that week. I imagine that search party that she sent out under false pretenses came back kind of frustrated that there was no sign of these men anywhere.

[22 : 43] What do you think they did when they came back to town and reported to their king we didn't find any tracks of these men? You think he said, well there's one person that saw them.

And said they went this way. Don't you think he would have said, send her back in. Let me have a talk with her again. Don't you think she was risking some things by misleading them and she stuck around.

Time passed since those men disappeared into the night. It's hard to be precise with the timing but from the time they pledged to deliver her until she was actually delivered it looks like several weeks had passed.

And I'm not going to take you through it but there was three days that they hid in the mountain then they traveled back to Shittim which is like 15 miles roughly. So that's some time coming and then in chapter 3 Joshua moves the people from Shittim up to the Jordan River and that's a 12 mile journey so that's some time passing.

Then they cross over and put up some memorials and there's another day at least. Then they set up camp in Gilgal in chapter 4 in verse 19 on the 10th day of the first month and after that the Lord says hey you need to make some sharp knives and circumcise the men that weren't circumcised in the wilderness so they did that and then they recovered from that.

[24 : 10] That's taken time days are passing and then in chapter 5 verse 10 they keep the Passover and most likely the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is mentioned with unleavened cakes in verse 11 and so there is definitely weeks going by that she's still in Jericho no sign of those men coming to get her.

I want you to understand that while she waited in Jericho the city was not exactly a happy place to live.

You've got to put yourself in there the environment wasn't exactly pleasant. People are scared to death. There's no courage in the men. She is the only person that had contact with these spies and they want some answers and everybody knows it.

People are getting on edge. Stress is building and getting higher. I'm sure they're accusing her and beginning to maybe mistreat or acting out. What happens? What do people in society like societal what do people act like when they're afraid?

They panic. They do it all the time over the worldwide. History proves this out. They panic and chaos erupts when their people are afraid when they don't know what's going to happen when the gates get shut up the city's closed for business the economy's tanking fear and frustration are growing.

[25 : 34] There's no way that this place Jericho is a happy place for Rahab to dwell anymore. And yet as her day of deliverance is approaching Rahab knew it she fully believed God is going to destroy this city.

So she bound that scarlet cord in her window. She preached to her family. She anticipated the day of her deliverance is coming. She didn't have a church to attend. She didn't have a pastor to call.

She didn't have a Bible study to go to in Tuesday nights and Thursday nights and go minister to. She didn't have women believers to disciple her and to fellowship with. She was on her own.

She had the good news that I'll get delivered one day but she remained steadfast in her present evil world until the day of her deliverance.

I want to just make this point that she remained steadfast and you and I should realize something here. When God saves our souls and we believe the message of salvation of the gospel He doesn't just take us home to heaven got another one you're saved raptured out of here God doesn't why doesn't He do that He doesn't if He did that there'd be nobody on earth to spread the gospel to tell others about Christ we'd just be believe and be gone it wouldn't work the whole system wouldn't work at all that's not God's way God covenants with you to give you eternal life He covenants to give you a new body to take you to be with Him but the deliverance comes later in the time being be ye steadfast Paul says unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord no matter what your surroundings look like our faith is to be in Him

[27 : 29] He will deliver this not only should we have a burden for our family and for our kinsmen like Rahab did to bring them to Jesus Christ but we should also determine to remain steadfast and abounding until our deliverance arrives the world around us is just going to get worse the chaos is going to get worse it is not going to get better but our call is to remain steadfast by faith now I want to conclude this whole thing and kind of bring back this typology a little bit her deliverance finally came if we could look at the city of Jericho as the world and I already said that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son if we could liken that city to the world and Rahab in that world is one sinner who are those two spies who are they in chapter 6 in verse where's that one I think it's in chapter 6 Joshua says there maybe it's not 6 oh yeah messengers in verse 17 see the end of verse 17 she hid the messengers who are those spies

I want to give you a thought here take your Bible go to 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 and keep your place in Joshua we'll close there in a moment 2nd Corinthians 5 and when you find your place there we'll start let's just start in verse 17 pretty popular verse in regards to salvation 2nd Corinthians 5 verse 17 therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature old things are passed away behold all things are become new and all things are of God who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation to wit that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself not imputing their trespasses unto them and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation now then we are ambassadors for Christ as though

God did beseech you by us we pray you notice these three words in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God would you consider that just as Jesus Christ came into this world that God was in Christ and that Jesus Christ was in the sense in the stead of God in the place of God he was the God providing himself a lamb the lamb of God the same way the Bible says here that we are ambassadors for Christ as though God not this time in the person of Jesus Christ but in the person of his children God beseeches unbelievers by us so we the believers pray the unbelievers we ask we beseech them in Christ stead Christ is not here doing it we are and he's in us just like God was in

Christ we pray you in Christ stead be ye reconciled to God you know when we go out do some outreach here and go door by door and try to go to individuals homes and neighborhoods we do it generally two people generally going two by two and there was two spies that were sent into that village and likening God sending his son into the world and try to connect that to you and I today where Jesus Christ in us is beseeching a lost man or woman in Christ stead that he's sending two messengers with the gospel message a message of deliverance into the world and look while you're close look at Galatians chapter one a few pages to your right flip over there God sends us as messengers or as ambassadors in Christ's stead to reconcile some sinners unto himself

Galatians chapter one and verse number three and four grace be to you and peace from God the father and from our Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world according to the will of God and our father that's the will of God to deliver us from this present evil world now come back to Joshua chapter six the whole scene that we're looking at in Joshua by way of typology is picturing for us a sinner in this world and two messengers!

[32 : 37] arrive in the stead of Christ with a message of reconciliation and a sinner receives Christ receives that message of deliverance and when it's all said and done look how it fares for that sinner in verse 24 it says and they burned the city with fire the city is a picture of the world remember you know what's going to happen to this place you know what Peter said and they burned the city with fire and all that was therein and look at verse 25 and Joshua a type of Christ saved Rahab the harlot alive and her father's household and all that she had and now notice the last part and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day why because she hid the messengers which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho now that sinner is dwelling with the people of God unto this day like into eternity is the picture she's dwelling with the people of

God that have the presence of God among them the picture is beautiful why because by faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not when she had received the spies with peace so there's a picture in this story there's faith being acted!

upon and there's a picture of sinners coming to Christ but where does this all lie on you well you and I are ambassadors for Jesus Christ if you've already received that message you're saved on your way to heaven you don't have to do anything there but then you have an opportunity and I'd say a responsibility and a calling and a ministry to preach that word of reconciliation to your mom and to your dad to your sons and daughters to your boss to your children can you bear to let them go is what that song says I'll just say these words now it says see our fathers and our mothers sinking down it says hell is moving it's talking about them dropping into hell you're supposed to see that that's what the song right is saying see that can you bear to let that happen to them your father and your mother and your children and so take a shot tonight and realize that this life is so short and you can let opportunities go by you don't know when the day of their death is going to be you don't know when you're going to watch them drop off into eternity and so if you have a chance and you pray for

God to give you an open door and you be that faithful pew with your family be great if they came here to church because you're a born again Christian and you went to tell them that there's destruction coming there's fire at the end of this road for you you're going to get burned in this city with fire be great if you could deliver them by faith it's going to take faith for you to have boldness to open your mouth it's going to take faith for you to pray for them and ask God to give you an open door and ask God to give you the right words because you don't know what to say and they're just going to reject you I know I know it's going to take some faith on the inside and prayer and one with God as though God did beseech you he wants to use you to to your mom or dad or children or whoever it is when

God opens a door you'll know it he'll be like right there it is tell them tell them so we need faith and here's an example of somebody you would think doesn't belong mentioned doesn't even belong in the book right Rahab the harlot and yet that's the kind of people God will use people just like you and me thank God so alright let's be dismissed with prayer and again I remind you to be in prayer for that funeral tomorrow if you would between especially 1 and 1.30 fathers we dismiss please put a burden on our hearts and boldness inside of our bodies and minds that we would proclaim the gospel with assurance and with confidence Lord give us wisdom and give us tact and help us to say only those things that are right and with the right timing and give us grace and humility and father may Jesus Christ receive the reward for the suffering that he did for these sinners and we pray that you'll save a soul from hell and

[37 : 33] God would you use us to bring pleasure to you for this in this cause we pray in Jesus name Amen