

MONDAY

October 6

Value in Unexpected Places

Read Joshua 2:2-11, Hebrews 11:31, and James 2:25. What do these texts tell us about Rahab?

And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night 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 wist not whence they were: And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them

with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

And 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 ye came out of Egypt; and what ye 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 had 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.

Central to Rahab's story is the lie told to protect the spies. In considering her lie, we have to realize that she was embedded in a society that was extremely sinful, which finally led to God's decision to judge that society (Gen. 15:16, Deut. 9:5, Lev. 18:25-28). While it is true that the New Testament commends her faith, a careful analysis of the New Testament

references to Rahab's act reveals that none endorse everything about her, and none validate her lie.

Hebrews 11:31 confirms her faith in casting her lot with the spies instead of choosing to hold on to a corrupt culture.

WE ALSO NEED TO REMEMBER THAT ABRAHAM IS ALSO MENTIONED IN THE HALL OF FAITH CHAPTER OF HEBREWS 11 IN FACT ABRAHAM IS

CONSIDERED TO BE THE FATHER OF FAITH - AND ABRAHAM LIED TWICE ABOUT WIFE BEING HIS SISTER BECAUSE HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE.

AGAIN REGARDING RAHABS FAITH James 2:25 commends her offer of lodging to the two Israelite spies and for giving them

directions on how to return by a safe route.

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way?

HEB. 11:31 AND JAMES 2:25 ARE BOTH GREAT VERSES, HOWEVER THE BEST VERSE DESCRIBING RAHAB IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS FOUND IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, CHAPTER 1 AND VERSE 5 WHICH SAYS:

And Salmon begat Boaz of Rachab; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

DO YOU KNOW WHY THIS MENTION OF RAHAB, IS SO SIGNIFICANT - BECAUSE IT IS BEING USED TO TRACE THE GENEALOGY OF CHRIST.

In the middle of a decadent, corrupt culture and Rahab's own sinful lifestyle, ~~God, in His grace, saw a spark of faith~~

~~through which He could save her. God used what was good in Rahab
=which was manifest faith in Him and in her choice to belong to
His people but never commended everything she did. God valued
Rahab for her exceptional courage, for her brave faith, for
being an agent of salvation, and for choosing Israel's God.~~

After seeing what was happening, she declared "for the LORD
your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath" (Josh.
2:11, NKJV). It's significant to hear a Canaanite woman
acknowledging that Yahweh is the only God, especially on a roof
where, in her pagan religion, prayers were usually offered to
what they believed were celestial deities.

The expression of Rahab is previously found only in the
context of God's exclusive right to receive worship (*Exod. 20:4*,
Deut. 4:39, *Deut. 5:8*). Her words bear witness to a
premeditated, conscientious choice to acknowledge that the God
of the Israelites is the only true deity. Her confession
demonstrates her understanding of the close relationship between
God's sovereignty and the judgment under which Jericho is
doomed.

Her moral choice recognizes that, in light of Yahweh's
judgment, there were only two possibilities: to continue in
rebellion against Him and be annihilated, or to choose to
surrender in faith. By choosing the God of the Israelites, Rahab

became an example of what could have been the destiny of all the inhabitants of Jericho had they turned to Israel's God for mercy.

THE STORY OF JERICHO AND RAHAB IS A TYPE OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION AND THOSE WHO RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF GOD AND KEEP THE FAITH OF JESUS GIVEN BY MEASURE TO EVERYONE:

"FOR I SAY, THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN UNTO ME, TO EVERY MAN THAT IS AMONG YOU, NOT TO THINK OF HIMSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK; BUT TO THINK SOBERLY, ACCORDING AS GOD HATH DEALT TO EVERY MAN THE MEASURE OF FAITH. — ROMANS 12:3— GOD GIVES

EVERYONE A MEASURE OF FAITH -

HEBREWS 11:1 - THAT MEASURE IS EVIDENCE FOR ACCEPTING GOD

"NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN."

THEN EVEN FAITH IS A GIFT FROM GOD EPHESIANS 2:8

HEBREWS 12:2 - THEREFORE THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT CHRIST IS THE AUTHOR OF ALL FAITH

LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING

THE SHAME, AND IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF
GOD.

RAHAB WAS GIVEN MEASURE OF FAITH WHEN SHE HEARD ABOUT THE WONDERS
OF GOD AND UNLIKE PHARAOH AND HER COUNTRYMEN, RAHAB ACCEPTED
THIS FAITH AS EVIDENCE OF BELIEF AND IT LED HER TO SALVATION AND
SHE CONTINUED TO LOOK TO GOD AS BOTH THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF
HER FAITH.

**What does this story teach us about how God must have our
ultimate allegiance?**