

Finding Refuge in God's Promises – Joshua 2

Trusting in God's Plan Even When It Doesn't Make Sense

Joshua sent two spies to scout out Jericho before Israel's first major battle in the Promised Land. These spies ended up in the house of Rahab, a prostitute, who became a key figure in their mission. This teaches us that God's plans often unfold in unexpected ways and through unexpected people.

Personal Application:

- Has God ever worked in my life in ways I didn't expect?
- Do I trust Him when His plans seem unconventional?
- Am I willing to obey His direction even when I don't fully understand?

Rahab's story reminds us that God uses imperfect people for His perfect purposes. She wasn't an Israelite, she wasn't living a righteous life, yet she demonstrated great faith in God—and He honored that.

Faith That Takes Action

Rahab had heard of God's power—how He parted the Red Sea and defeated mighty kings. She believed that God was greater than the gods of Jericho. Because of her faith, she risked her own life to protect the spies.

Personal Application:

- Do I take bold steps of faith, even when it's risky?
- Do I let fear keep me from standing up for what is right?
- Do I believe in God's power based on what I've heard, or do I need to see it for myself?

Hebrews 11:31 says:

"By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."

Faith isn't just believing—it's **acting on that belief**. Rahab could have heard about God and still chosen to side with Jericho. Instead, she acted by hiding the spies and asking for protection.

The Scarlet Cord: A Picture of Salvation

Rahab was told to hang a scarlet cord from her window so that she and her family would be saved when Jericho was destroyed. This scarlet cord is a powerful picture of Jesus' blood, which provides salvation to those who trust in Him.

Personal Application:

- Am I trusting in Jesus for my salvation, or something else?
- Am I staying where God has provided safety (in Christ), or am I stepping outside into danger (sin, self-reliance, disobedience)?
- Do I share the message of salvation with my family, like Rahab gathered hers to safety?

Just as the Israelites were spared in Egypt when the blood of the lamb was applied to their doorposts, Rahab's family was saved by the scarlet cord. This is a reminder that Jesus' sacrifice is our refuge.

John 10:9 says:

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved."

God Can Redeem Any Past

Rahab had a shameful past, but God gave her a new identity. Not only was she saved from destruction, but she later married an Israelite and became an ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5). Her past did not define her—her faith in God did.

Personal Application:

- Do I let my past define me, or do I trust in God's power to redeem my story?
- Am I willing to let God use me, no matter where I've come from?
- Do I believe that through faith, God can transform me just like He did Rahab?

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Rahab's story reminds us that God is in the business of transforming broken lives. No matter where we've been, God can give us a new future, a new purpose, and a new identity in Him.

Final Takeaways from Joshua 2

1. Faith requires action. Like Rahab, we must step out in faith, trusting God's promises even when the future is uncertain.
2. God provides a place of safety. The scarlet cord symbolizes Jesus' blood, which is our refuge and salvation.
3. Our past doesn't disqualify us. Rahab's faith rewrote her story. Through Christ, we are new creations.
4. God works through unexpected people. We shouldn't judge by appearances—God sees the heart and can use anyone for His kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

- Where is God calling me to step out in faith today?
- Am I resting in the safety of Christ, or am I wandering outside of His protection?
- Do I believe God can use me, no matter my past?

Rahab's story reminds us that faith, not background, determines our destiny. Will we, like her, trust God and take action?