



September 03
Sunday Sermon Study Guide
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Legends
Rahab – Joshua 2:2-21

But someone told the king of Jericho, “Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.”³ So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: “Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land.”⁴ Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, “Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn’t know where they were from.”⁵ They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don’t know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them.”⁶ (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.)⁷ So the king’s men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king’s men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut.⁸ Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them.⁹ “I know the Lord has given you this land,” she told them. “We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror.”¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed.¹¹ No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the Lord your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.¹² “Now swear to me by the Lord that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that¹³ when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families.”¹⁴ “We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety,” the men agreed. “If you don’t betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the Lord gives us the land.”¹⁵ Then, since Rahab’s house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window.¹⁶ “Escape to the hill country,” she told them. “Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way.”¹⁷ Before they left, the men told her, “We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions.”¹⁸ When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house.¹⁹ If they go out into the street and are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death.²⁰ If you betray us, however, we are not bound by this oath in any way.”²¹ “I accept your terms,” she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window.²² The spies went up into the hill country and stayed there three days. The men who were chasing them searched everywhere along the road, but they finally returned without success. Joshua 2:2-21 (NLT)

It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.
Hebrews 11: 31(NLT)

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

LESSONS TO EXPLORE

1. We Humans are Messy
2. God Wants to use You!
3. God Sees Beyond Your Mess

INTRO

Consider a time when you tried to put *more good into the world than what actually exist in you*. Why do we teach others to be good and do the right thing, but we don't live out what we preach? How can this impact the Gospel that we want others to see in our life?

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The story of Rahab seems messy as we consider her lifestyle and her reputation. And yet, her story emphasizes her bravery and her faith.
 - a. Nowhere in her story in Joshua 2 do we see Rahab attempting to be someone other than who she is.
 - Why is this significant to her story and to your story?

- How hard do we try to be someone that we are not? Why do we do this?

2. Rahab had heard the stories of God parting the Red Sea and seemed to have a grasp on who God was and His power. Her fear of God's power and the spies that represented Him drove her to lie, she seemed to think on her feet, but she also seemed to be weighing her options.
 - How does she step into a space where God can and will use her instead of allowing fear to paralyze her?
 - Look back at events in your own life, when have you allowed God to use you even when you felt useless? Why did He choose you in that event with those people?
 - Rahab's is thinking of others and not only herself. She has a family that she wants to protect. How does this change how you think of Rahab and her character?
3. Walk in Rahab's shoes for a moment. When she agreed to help the spies, she meshed her unique position and opportunity with her imperfect faith, and this changed the trajectory of God's people.
 - Rahab most likely could not have envisioned the impact that her choices would have on the nation of Israel. When have you experienced God using your unique circumstances and your wiring to advance His Kingdom objectives?

