

Joshua 2

Living a life of Victory

Moses delivered Children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt & Pharaoh but couldn't bring them into promise land--he misrepresented God in the wilderness--twice struck the rock (**Christ**). One sin can keep from God's promises—Moses represents the Law--in our spiritual journey to the promise land--enjoying all God's blessings--only accessible by faith. Joshua is Heb of NT Jesus-God is salvation

We've been delivered from bondage of sin & devil--now saved & having access to all the promises of God. Jews passed thru the Red Sea a kind of baptism, *1Cor 10:2 all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea*—journeyed to Mt Sinai & received Gods word—word fully followed will inherit all Gods riches of the land. **Word** of God a lamp to feet....**words** found and I ate them....**word** became flesh...**word** is the Lord...taste and see Lord/word is good...—to follow Gods word is to follow Jesus.

Now fully saved & on the banks of Jordan, promise land before them, by faith they are to enter in & take possession of what God has already given. So by faith we receive all spiritual blessing in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus—Faith is the key to live a victorious abundant Christian life.

*1 Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies **secretly** from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there.*

Faith in God's promises produces diligence not indolence (**laziness**) or idleness—**Faith** doesn't make excuses for inactivity--to the contrary **faith** is a call to action. Faith works! **'Show me your faith w/o works & I will show you my faith by my works.'** Faith is spiritual activity—it's pressing into the **promises** not just sitting on the **premises**

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So *Joshua sent spies*. **Secretly** (disguised) **Why?** Blend in w/ Canaanites for reconnaissance purposes—strategy when attack & conquer? **Or**

undercover so Jews who are about to take the land not get wrong impression & think Joshua not sure about promise of victory. **Not lack of faith**

Divine providence leads to house of Rahab—reputation in city as harlot.

Not **Innkeeper** as prudish make her out to be. **Heb 11:31/Ja 2:25-harlot** She is in the Genealogy of Christ **Matt 1:5**. The Great, Great Grandmother of David--in the Royal line of Messiah. **Grace-forgiven much love much**

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land."

Behold – Spurgeon '**behold is like a divine highlighter, a divine underlining of an especially striking or important text. It says in effect Listen up, all you who would be wise in the ways of Jehovah!"** Arrest our attention for something important--a change of mood.

We saw strangers dressed not like us—glimpse face-must be Jews from army camped across river to spy land & attack. On way out stopped by harlots house. No big deal in that day & in pagan city—accepted, even by family, way of worship, everyone doing it. And yet judgment is about to fall.

*3 And the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab, saying, "**Bring out** the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." 4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 "And it came about when it was time to shut the gate, at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." 6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof.*

Bring out-royal command-a crisis of faith for her--do I give into fear risk death by hand of king if found out **or** follow faith--believing God will do what faith tells her He will do & what servants He sent are saying

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She tells the king half truths 'they came' to throw off then lied-she hid them. Flax was harvested in the fields, soaked & piled high on the rooftops get maximum sun to dry. Then made into yarn, which was used to make linen cloth. Grows to a height of three or four feet. When stacked on the roof, it made an excellent hiding place for the spies. Flat roofs-like a deck-garden-sleep in summer. Should she have lied? Was it right or wrong **Ex 20:16** 9th Command not to bear false witness. **Commentators** say always wrong & should never give excuse. Most will never face a life & death situation like Rahab.

Close: Nazi Germany in Holland the Ten Boom family hid Jews from Hitler to save from concentration camps & Gas chambers. When SS troops pounded on door & you had hidden Jewish family would you lie to soldiers or give up the family. **I'd lie**. Here's why: In a perfect world where justice & righteousness are the rule I would agree lying is always wrong. But in a world where there are wicked & Godless rulers, my position

Pr 26:4,5 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him. 5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.

Nowhere is it said she lacked faith or lied but instead **James 2:25 'was not Rahab the prostitute justified by her actions...Heb 11:31 By faith the prostitute Rahab...** Her answer is what I'd say if faced w/ the same dilemma & I don't believe I'd feel guilty but justified for answering a fool as his folly deserves. Another woman who lied & was called righteous doing a far more morally egregious deed is Tamar. She is who is in the genealogy of Christ **Gen 38**. Genuine faith will always win over weakness of the flesh. Doing right takes precedence over the letter of the Law.

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Jesus when accused of breaking the Sabbath law by healing *“Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill?”* Mk 3:4 **You judge**

7 So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan to the fords; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate. 8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. 10 “For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

Rahab heard the miracles & believed incomplete knowledge but had faith –
You Tuber criticize Greg (cult of fault finders) me Waikiki Randal Tong

A prophecy given to Moses being fulfilled **Ex 23:27** *I will send My terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn and run. Dt 2:25 This very day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon all the nations under heaven. They will hear the reports of you and tremble in anguish because of you.” 11:25 No man will be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the fear and dread of you upon all the land, wherever you set foot, as He has promised you. 2 cor 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; ---40 years earlier & still impact--Jesus Revolution-still witness some turn **or** harden--2000 yrs ago or our witness*

11 “And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Melt away – demoralize – Heb-utter despair – no spirit remained; being out of ones self by astonishment. For 40 yearS faithless generation wandered-false start yet providence—gave these people a reprieve-a chance to repent & Israel a chance to get their act together *sick & tired of wilderness wandering* A 40 year death march, funeral procession for 1st generation--a disappointment w/o a witness.

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How is the church doing today--affecting the world--**Examine self to see if in the faith**---is there admiration & respect for church & Christians or are we a laughing-stock as see tv evangelist beg for money, quirky behavior, outlandish prophecy for people (**Richard Roberts**)--all seems phony & unreal to world-Jesus came seek & save. Needed is **legitimate** miracle power—**genuine** love, move HS

Rahab knew history of Hebrews and took it to heart. Recognized God had given Israel the land – Pagan harlot recognized a truth 3500 years ago most of the world denies today. But Lord will soon take ownership.

12 “Now therefore, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father’s household, and give me a pledge of truth, 13 and spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters, with all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” 14 So the men said to her, “Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

Rahab calls on name of YHWH to witness pledge from spies. She calls on name 4 times :8-13. When we saved we wanted it for our family. Be witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost...Those closest can see if real.

City & people destined for destruction – they **‘filled up cup of iniquity to full’** & continued in sin even when God’s mercy stayed His hand of judgment....40 yrs...now salvation for Rahab & household but ruin for the rest.

Word was bond **Pr 22:1 A good name is to be more desired than great riches, Favor is better than silver and gold. Ps 138:2 ‘You have magnified Your word above all Your name. (character)’**

The spies gave their lives as a surety of redemption for those in the house.

If your word is no good you are no good—good for nothing-**Murdock**

Church is not what it could be or what Jesus would want it to be

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15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall.

Archaeology digs reveal a double walled city houses, especially poorer built between in and outer wall w/ window in outer wall.

16 And she said to them, “Go to the hill country, lest the pursuers happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days, until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way.” 17 And the men said to her, “We shall be free from this oath to you which you have made us swear, 18 unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather to yourself into the house your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father’s household.

Spurgeon *Rahab as an example of a true believer. She had obedient faith & immediately tied the cord from the window. She believed the promise that the spies made to her & proved her faith by her works. She made an open declaration of her faith. Her whole house was dedicated to the Lord. She was not in a believing nation, her parents had given her no instructions, and her knowledge of the true God was very slender. What she had to believe was very difficult—that the Jordan River would open up so the Israelites could cross and that the strong city of Jericho would fall*

Hills in the area had many caves to hide in. We visit a site of a monastery built into rock mountain. Wait 3 days then cross the ford back to camp.

Scarlet rope hung out window to distinguish house of faith. Harlots paint window sill red—red light district...w/ cord hanging from window--cross w/ sill and cord. Her house much like a symbol for what happen in Egypt w/ blood on door post and lintel-cross

Those in house safe and protected by faith and witness of Rahab.

Philippian jailer *‘believe in Lord Jesus and you shall be saved, you and your household. Acts 16:31*

19 “And it shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be free; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if a hand is laid on him.

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Safe house—stay put—stand fast—abide in Me and I in you....Place of safety and security. *Heb 1:1 1God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; 2:1 1For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*

20 "But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be free from the oath which you have made us swear." 21 And she said, "According to your words, so be it." So she sent them away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord in the window. 22 And they departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had sought them all along the road, but had not found them. 23 Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country and crossed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they related to him all that had happened to them. 24 And they said to Joshua, "Surely the LORD has given all the land into our hands, and all the inhabitants of the land, moreover, have melted away before us."

Lord puts courage in his people and takes courage away from the enemy –

Gideon-Judges 7:9-15