Rahab: Love for a Prostitute December 11, 2022

*Joshua 2:1-14 Series: God's Love Overcomes People’s Rejection*

The central defect of evil is not the sin but the refusal to acknowledge it. – Scott Peck

Intro: There’s usually a back story.

1. It wasn’t because of her morality
2. Jericho was destined for judgment

Genesis 15:16 *And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.*

Deuteronomy 9:5 *because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out*

Deuteronomy 20:17-18 *you shall devote them to complete destruction … that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God*

1. Rahab was a prostitute trying to get by

v. 1 *And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.*

v. 15 *her house was built into the city wall*

v. 12 *deal kindly with my father's house*

v. 13 *save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them*

* Why was Rahab, in one sense, the least likely person to be rescued from God’s judgment?
* How does her story change how we think about the Israelites’ mission to drive out the Canaanites?
* How are believers to wage “holy war” today?

1. It was because of her faith
2. She believed in God’s promises

v. 9 *I know that the LORD has given you the land*

Joshua 1:3 *Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.*

1. She believed in God’s judgment

v. 9 *the fear of you has fallen upon us*

v. 9 *all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you*

v. 11 *our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you*

v. 10 *what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction*

1. She believed in God’s deliverance

v. 10 *we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt*

v. 11 *the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath*

v. 12 *please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house*

Hebrews 11:31 *By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.*

* Rahab never heard a sermon from Moses. How did she learn about the God of the Bible and put her faith in Him?
* How might her unbelieving neighbours have drawn different conclusions about the same information?
* Why do you think Rahab was honoured in the “hall of faith” in Hebrews 11 alongside many other heroes of the faith?

1. It was because her faith could walk
2. She didn’t fear the king

v. 3 *Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.”*

v. 4 *But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.*

1. She joined the resistance

v. 6 *But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.*

Exodus 1:19-20 *The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives.*

1. Her faith led her to act

James 2:25 *And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?*

James 2:14 *What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?*

Matthew 21:31 *Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”*

* How does Rahab’s inclusion in Jesus’ genealogy change how you think about Israelites, foreigners, and the heart of God?
* Did Rahab sin in lying to the king’s messengers? Why/why not?
* What does it mean to be “justified by works” in James 2:25?
* What does it mean to love the Rahabs of the world today?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Ruth 1:1-18

Notes