

Rahab, the Redeemed

⇒ **Text:** Joshua 2:1-24; 6:23-25

⇒ **INTRODUCTION:**

- o First let us look at the story of Rahab, the harlot.
 - At the time of the arrival of the Israelites in Canaan, she was a young, unmarried woman dwelling alone in a house of her own, though she did have a father and mother, sisters and brothers who lived in Jericho.
- o Joshua had come with the host of Israel and was about to enter into the promised land.
 - He found the city of Jericho directly in his path; consequently, he resolved to capture it.
- o Though Jericho was no coveted city, it was an obstacle in the direct march of the Israelites, and it could not conveniently have been passed by without its capture.
- o Rahab was a well-known merchant in Jericho.
 - Some say she was a lodge-keeper and also was engaged in the manufacture of linen and the art of dyeing.
 - Of course, she also was a harlot, or a wicked woman.
 - Her house was situated on the wall of the city of Jericho, perhaps near the gate of the town.
 - It was convenient for persons coming in and going out of the city.
- o Especially was this true for traders coming from Mesopotamia to Phoenicia.
 - They would frequently pass through Jericho, since it was near the fords of the Jordan; consequently, many of those, no doubt, would stay at the house of Rahab.
 - Rahab, then, had been well informed with regard to the Jews coming out of Egypt and journeying toward Canaan;
 - No doubt travelers had told her about their progress.
 - She had heard of the passage through the Red Sea and of the progress of the hosts of Israel.
 - Then, therefore, the two spies sent by Joshua came to her house, they found themselves under the roof of one who was aware of their progress and, no doubt, friendly to them.
- o As soon as they came, however, the king of Jericho received information of it while at supper.
 - He sent that very evening to require Rahab to deliver them.
 - Rahab, realizing this, hid the men among the flax-stalks which were piled on the flat roof of her house.
 - When the officers came to find the spies, she protected them.
 - Imagine, if you will, Rahab with perfect self-possession,
 - Not even giving a look or a nod to create suspicion,
 - Facing the officers of the king,

- Answering all their questions, and at the same time protecting these men.
- o After the king's officers had left, Rahab made a plan to help the men escape.
 - She let them down by a cord from the window of her house that looked over the city wall, and they fled over the mountains which bounded the plains of Jericho.
- o As the men left, they consented to see to it that Rahab and her household were spared when Jericho was taken.
 - They agreed with her that she should hang out her scarlet line at the window.
 - This is the same line with which they had escaped.
 - They agreed also that her family could be saved, as long as they were in that house where the scarlet thread was hanging.
 - If they wandered out of the house at the destruction of Jericho, they could not be saved; but they could be saved if they stayed in the house.
 - **Joshua 6:23-25** tells that they kept their word and did save Rahab and her house.
- o Notice several things about Rahab.
- ⇒ **I. It WAS the scarlet thread that saved.**
 - o **See Joshua 2:13**
 - o This scarlet thread no doubt represents the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - It reminds us some, does it not, of the Passover night when the blood was applied on the doorposts and the lintel.
 - It is interesting that it was a scarlet thread.
 - Perhaps the scarlet represents the sins of Rahab.
 - More than likely, however, it represents the blood of Christ that is our hope and our safety.
 - Just as the blood saved the Israelites, the scarlet thread saved the house of Rahab.
- ⇒ **II. Rahab wanted to get her entire family saved.**
 - o **See Joshua 2:18-19.**
 - o **Notice Joshua 2:19.**
 - In **verse 18** the promise had been that her father and her mother and her brothers and all the father's household would be saved with her.
 - It was not enough for her to be saved--she wanted to see her entire family saved.
 - This should be the case of every Christian--concern for our lost loved ones.
- ⇒ **III. This story shows there is hope for those in deep sin, and for social outcasts.**
 - o Rahab was a fallen woman; yet, God is interested in reaching fallen women.

- God does not condone the sin--in fact, He loathes it--but He does love the sinner.
 - What the world sometimes condemns and passes by on the other side, God loves and wants to save.
 - There is no one outside the scope of the love of God.
- ⇒ **IV. This story shows us the wonderful possibilities in outcasts.**
- What the world would reject, God sees, in this one, wonderful possibilities.
 - It is amazing what God can do with someone who comes to Him, even if the life has been tainted by the most awful sins.
- ⇒ **V. This story also shows us that we should be trying to win even the lowest of people.**
- As someone has said, "Angels are not necessarily confined to nice houses with glass chandeliers and lace curtains.
 - They do not shrink from lowly places.
 - The darker the spot they visit, the brighter the glow on their faces."
 - Tucked away in lives of some of the poorest and most remote people are great possibilities in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Let us not see people as rich or poor, high or low, but as people in need of a Saviour.
 - As Joann Knight of the San Francisco Gospel Mission says, "An unsaved soul may be found at any address."
- ⇒ **VI. This story also shows the simplicity of salvation.**
- All she had to do was put faith in the scarlet thread.
 - No doubt she turned from her adultery, but the Bible does not say this is what saved her.
 - She did become a useful person, but the Bible does not say this is what saved her.
 - She was a help to God's men, but this did not save her.
 - When the Israelites came to destroy the city, she could have been a good person without the scarlet thread and been destroyed.
 - She could have quit her adultery, and yet without the scarlet thread she would have been destroyed.
 - She could have been helpful to the spies, but without the scarlet thread she would have been destroyed.
 - The plain, simple teaching here is the same the Bible teaches throughout, and that is salvation is by faith in God's provision.
 - It is not by good works, merit, or deeds of kindness, but by grace through faith.
- ⇒ **VII. We find here also that we should be kind & helpful to God's men.**
- Rahab did this!
 - When the rewards are passed out in Heaven, along with the Joshua's, Caleb's, Jacobs', Paul's, Isaiah's, and Jeremiah's, there will be a great host of people receiving rewards who helped them, protected them, worked with them, prayed for them, and held up their hands.

- Thank God for the people in our church who do this!
- ⇒ **VIII. Note that Rahab was also a Gentile.**
 - She had not journeyed in the wilderness but was saved and favored as though she had been one of the Israelites.
 - Thank God for this fact.
 - Salvation is for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.
- ⇒ **IX. Rahab is listed in Hebrews 11 as one of the "Heroes of the Faith."**
 - **See Hebrews 11:31**
 - The Apostle Paul gives us a list of those who became illustrious through faith.
 - He says, "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises," (**Heb. 11:33**).
 - He listed the great men such as Abraham, Isaac, and others.
 - It is interesting that in this hall of heroes is listed Rahab, the harlot; and her name is conspicuous in the bright light of those who shine for us unto this day.
 - No one is beyond salvation, and no saved person is beyond being used by God.
- ⇒ **X. Rahab became the mother of a noble race.**
 - **See Matthew 1:5.**
 - It is interesting that according to the genealogy of Matthew, Rahab became the mother of the line from which sprang David and eventually, Jesus Christ.
 - She was one of four women who were named in the ancestry of the Messiah.
 - All of these were apparently foreigners, and this is the reason they were mentioned.
 - Think of it!
 - A woman who had the reputation of Rahab becomes an ancestress of the royal line through which flows the blood that stands for human redemption.
 - It did not matter about her past.
 - She was saved and useful, and God let her bless the generations that were to come.
 - It is not the blood in our veins but the blood of Christ that washes us from our sin.
 - It is not the past but the future.