

Episode 4: Rahab and the Spies, Joshua Ch. 2

1. **THE STORY**
   1. Joshua 1:16–2:24. The Mission (2:1–24): Joshua assigns two spies to a special task.
   2. Joshua: The careful and thoughtful leader. *Luke 14:28–33 (ESV):*

*28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?*

* 1. Joshua 2:1 Joshua prepared to enter Canaan by sending two spies from Shittim to scout out the land and the city of Jericho.
  2. The spies’ trip (2:1–22): They enter Jericho to spy out the city. The spies spent the first night in Jericho at the house of Rahab the prostitute, who hid the men and sent away the soldiers sent by the king of Jericho to capture them.
  3. Rahab’s Testimony 2:9: ***I know that the Lord has given you the land***.
  4. Rahab’s petition (2:8–13): She asks that she and her family be spared when the city is attacked.
  5. Rahab’s assurance from Israel’s spies (2:8–21)
  6. The Sign -- The Crimson Cord (and the Passover). Joshua 2:18
  7. The Spies’ Report (2:22–24): After traveling deeper into the hills and hiding for three days, the spies headed back across the Jordan River to report to Joshua at Shittim. Upon returning to camp, the spies reassure the Israelites that God will indeed deliver Jericho into their hands.
     1. Two spy stories
        1. One a story of failure
        2. One a story of faithfulness
  8. (**SPOILER ALERT!):** When the Israelites did conquer Jericho, only Rahab and her father’s family were saved (Josh. 6:25).

1. **RAHAB: FROM PROSTITUTE TO HEROINE.** 
   1. The Prostitute
      1. **Rahab is a story of God’s grace, not a story of a good person deserving of salvation.**
      2. The Hebrew word “Zoonah” is used, which means harlot. In Greek (in the New Testament), “porne” is used. These words make it very clear that Rahab was a harlot.
      3. Rahab’s story gives hope to every sinner that they too can be redeemed and fit into God’s plan.
   2. The Faith of Rahab
      1. Fear of the Lord: Rahab is portrayed as motivated by a genuine fear of God and a belief that He would conquer the city.
      2. Faith in the Promise
         1. The Promise of Salvation—The Red Cord (Blood of the Lamb—Blood of Jesus)
         2. She Had Faith in the Promise
      3. Faith of a sinner
      4. Faith born of desperation
      5. Taking God seriously
   3. Rahab: The Big picture.
      1. What she did (see above)
      2. Who she was
         1. In the New Testament, Rahab is cited as a heroine of faith (Heb. 11:31) and is included in Jesus’ ancestry by Matthew (1:5). Rahab is one of four women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew; the other three are Tamar (Matt. 1:3), Ruth the Moabitess (Matt. 1:5), and the “wife of Uriah” (Matt. 1:6). This is why she was named and her record preserved)
         2. Representative of hope for the Gentiles - Joshua: Rahab in her faith anticipates the salvation of Gentiles through faith (Gal. 3:6–9; Heb. 11:31; James 2:25– *In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?*
         3. According to later Jewish legend, Rahab was one of the four most beautiful women in history. She was the ancestor of eight prophets (including Jeremiah), and of Huldah the prophetess (b. Meg. 15a).
2. **RAHAB—ETHICS AND THE FORGIVEN SINNER**
   1. Rahab’s past
   2. Rahab’s lie
   3. Rahab’s courage and generosity