

Rahab, That Woman of Faith

Josh. 2:1-22; 6:22-25; Heb. 11:2; James 2:25

Reading Josh. 2:8-11

Introduction:

1. God charged Joshua to lead Israel into the land of Canaan, to take possession of it. He said, "Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
2. After preparing the people and getting a commitment from those who had taken their land in Trans-Jordan, Joshua sent two spies across the Jordan. They were to go and view the land, especially Jericho.
3. They went into the house of one, Rahab, a harlot. Word reached the king that they had come to her house, but instead of giving them up she hid them. She deceived those pursuing them by telling them that the two men had already left.

Discussion:

- I. Whatever you think about Rahab's profession or Rahab's deceit, she is identified in Heb. 11:31 as a woman of faith and in James 2:25 she is identified as a woman whose faith acted by receiving the messengers and sending them out by another way.
 - A. In Heb. 11:31 she is identified as a woman of faith as a result of her welcoming the spies.
 - B. In James 2:25 she is identified as a woman of faith as a result of receiving the messengers and sending them out by another way.
 - C. The statement revealing her faith is in Joshua 2:8-11.

- II. Her faith is evidenced by her conviction that the Lord had given Israel the land (v. 9).
 - A. Do you realize what this meant for her?
 - B. She was expecting death.
 1. For herself. For her family. All the inhabitants of Jericho.
 2. She was moved emotionally, like you would be if you had an inside track on a terroristic plan, not knowing when it was going to occur, but that it was.
 3. She said, "I know that the Lord has given you the land."

- III. Her faith was founded upon what she had heard (v. 10-11). She had heard about two occurrences.
 - A. She had heard about how the Lord dried up the Red Sea when they came out of Egypt (Ex. 14).
 - B. She had heard about what they had done to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites (Num. 21:21ff).

- C. Her understanding of what had happened is revealed in v. 11b.
- D. Given this understanding she could have responded in a way different than she did.
 - 1. She could have sought to go against God, depend on herself and rely on the protection of the king of Jericho.
 - 2. She could have turned the spies in to the king of Jericho.
 - 3. Instead she acted in faith, received the messengers of the king and then sent them out another way.
 - a. Faith demands changes in allegiance.
 - b. Faith demands allegiance.
 - 1) To God.
 - 2) Siding with God's people.
 - 3) Cannot side with God and those opposed to Him.
 - 4. The two spies were men of faith (v. 14). The people of Jericho, though fearful were not people of faith.
 - 5. Rahab believed in the existence of the Lord and that He was a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb. 11:6).

IV. Rahab made a covenant with the men of God (v. 12-14).

- A. This is further evidence of faith in God and her allegiance with Him and His people.
 - 1. You are not loyal to God if you do not help his people.
 - 2. You are not loyal to God if you do not act to advance His cause.
- B. She asked for her life and the lives of those near to her. Your faith affects others. They had to become people of faith too.
 - 1. She depended on the Lord for her life.
 - 2. He is a rewarder of those who seek him.
- C. God rescues and preserves people of faith (2 Pet. 2:4ff).
- D. She had to act in a way that was consistent with her belief (Josh. 2:15ff).
- E. The others who were with her had to act in a way consistent with belief.

V. Rahab, her family, all her father's household were preserved and lived in the midst of Israel (Josh. 6:22-25).

- A. Life is preserved by faith.
- B. Actions are required.
 - 1. Be in the house.
 - 2. A scarlet thread tied in the window.
- C. Actions reveal faith.

Conclusion:

- 1. Do you have the faith that saves?

2. It is more than an emotional response. It was more than fear for all the inhabitants of Jericho feared.
3. It is confident trust that comes by hearing.
4. It involves new allegiances and new relationships.
5. It is evidenced in actions.
6. It leads to life.