



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Emboldened by Grace!

Focus Verses: Joshua 6:22-23 - ²² But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. ²³ And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

Lesson Text: Joshua 2:8-16; 6:20-25; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

Truth About God: God will save anyone who chooses to believe and obey.

Truth For My Life: I will trust God's grace and boldly ask for what I need.

Even though the Israelite spies were trying to appear inconspicuous, Rahab spotted something different about them. Israel had previously sent spies into the land according to Numbers 13, but Joshua sent these two before Israel invaded Jericho. He sent them to *"go view the land, even Jericho"* (Joshua 2:1). Joshua thought like a military strategist. Israel's mission was successful but not because it was strategically planned or rationally sound; rather they succeeded because the invisible hand of God guided the plan.

Rahab professed faith in Israel's God. She believed God had given Israel the land (Joshua 2:9). She also confessed that all the people, including her, were terrified of Israel because they had heard about the Exodus from Egypt, the Red Sea crossing, and Israel's military victories in the wilderness. Due to God's exploits, Rahab concluded that Israel's God must be the ruler of the heavens above and the earth below (Joshua 2:11). He was not just a god of a specific region but the God of the earth and sky.

Rahab's legacy is her great faith while living in such a faithless place and she is listed in Jesus' genealogy (Matthew 1:5). Her faith gave way to a bold request; she asked the spies to save her and her family's lives when they conquered her city. They instructed her to leave the scarlet rope in her window that she used to lower them down from the city walls. God's people and this seeming faithless prostitute named Rahab entered into a covenant together, all based on her faith in Israel's God. Joshua and the people of Israel faithfully carried out God's unconventional battle strategy to march around Jericho's once indomitable walls, and those walls of Jericho fell flat. They did not harm Rahab and her family. They led them out and escorted them to safety before burning the city. God showered grace on an outsider and her family.

While it is great to continue learning about God and His Word, faith is not just dependent on knowledge. A knowledgeable person may not also be a faithful person. We may know a great deal and still have little or no faith. Some of the greatest contemporary professional theologians, as far as academic careers are concerned, are agnostics or atheists. Knowledge, then, does not indicate whether a person is faithful to God.

Faith is a choice, and the choice to experience God's perfect love will transform our lives. Fear often causes people to do wrong or to do nothing, which results in apathy and complacency. While doing nothing may seem like a neutral option, not making a choice is still a choice. God calls His entire creation to trust in Him; every individual has a response. We must continue to respond in faith as often as we hear the call.

When Jesus said the Spirit anointed Him to preach deliverance to the captives and liberate the bruised (Luke 4:18), we must understand Jesus' mission is ours. Our mission is to bring those who are **"outsider"** inside the kingdom of God. On the **Day of Pentecost**, Peter spoke beyond his understanding when he preached: *"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"* (Acts 2:39). Peter thought this call would only go to Jews; however, **this call extended to the ends of the earth because God was, is, and will be calling all people into a covenant with Him.** Our ministry is to bring the **"outsider"** inside and to deconstruct systems of oppression, barriers, and obstacles that may be in their way.

Even when God's answer to faithfulness is not deliverance, God still calls us to faithfulness and discipleship. A faithful life consists of days of faithful living. Let us faithfully carry out Jesus' mission by making every foreseeable effort to bring the **"outsider"** inside the body of Christ.