

# Rahab

## Joshua 2

Text: Joshua 2:2

(Joshua 2:1) "And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there."

Introduction:

There once was a rather rough, uncultured man who for some reason fell in love with a beautiful vase in a shop window. Eventually he bought the vase and put it on the mantel piece in his room. There it became a kind of judgment on its surroundings. He had to clean up the room to make it worthy of the vase. The curtains looked dingy beside it. The old chair with the stuffing coming out of the seat would not do. The wallpaper and the paint needed redoing. Gradually the whole room was transformed. When you put Christ on the mantel of your heart, your whole life is transformed.

It is this kind of transformation we witness here in the second chapter of the book of Joshua. As the Israelites were about to enter Canaan and claim their promised land, the first city they would have to face was the great walled city of Jericho. If they could take this city, they could easily split the country in two and then move from there to conquer the north and the south. Before

they go about the business of defeating Jericho, Joshua sends spies to the city to gauge the mood of the people and to see whether or not they were ready for war. When these spies entered Jericho, they went to the home of a harlot. Why? Well, the sight of men entering a harlot's home would not attract too much attention. Now would it? What they found when they entered the home of Rahab must have come as quiet a shock to these two men. They found a woman who had been changed by the power of God. They met Rahab, but found out that she wasn't the girl she used to be!

For us, Rahab is a picture of the power of the Lord Jesus to transform any life that comes to Him by faith. What we will see today is how the Lord takes sinners who will place their faith in Him and changes them by His power and grace. As I preach this message this morning, if you are saved, then rejoice in the great change Jesus has made in your life. If you are not a child of God, then allow the Lord to speak to your heart this morning and be saved today.

## **1. RAHAB THE CALL GIRL (v. 1)**

### **A. Her Spiritual Condition - Rahab was a harlot.**

She was engaged in a wicked lifestyle whereby she sold her body to men for money. Her lived a depraved and wicked life.

## *Illustration*

She is a picture of every person who is lost in sin this morning. You see, you may not be a harlot, but if you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, then you are lost in sin and need to be born again!

It is sad but true, all are sinners - Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:22.

(Romans 3:23) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

(Galatians 3:22) "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

If you are outside Christ today, your in a helpless and hopeless situation - Eph. 2:1-3; Eph. 2:12.

(Ephesians 2:1-3) "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: {2} Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: {3} Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

(Ephesians 2:12) "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

## B. Her Spiritual Condemnation

1. She lived in a city that was slated for destruction!
2. God had already determined that Jericho would fall!
3. I am sure the people felt pretty confident and reasonably safe behind the walls of their city, but God had already passed sentence upon them and they were doomed to destruction!
4. The people of Jericho may not have felt that they were in great danger, but they were doomed nonetheless!

### *Illustration*

So it is with the sinner this morning! The lost person may feel secure today and may not believe that he is in any danger. However, the Bible tells us that the lost are condemned already, John 3:18.

(John 3:18) "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

It tells us that they abide under the wrath of God, John 3:36.

(John 3:36) "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

It tells us that their ultimate destiny is eternity in Hell to be forever separated from the presence of God, Psa. 9:17; 2 Thes. 1:8-9.

(Psalms 9:17) "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

(2 Thessalonians 1:8-9) "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: {9} Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

My friend, if you are lost, that is your future we are talking about!

### C. God's Spiritual Compassion - Notice verse 10.

(Joshua 2:10) "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed."

1. Rahab tells the spies that they heard of what happened in Egypt and of the kings thy have defeated along the way.
2. Well, it had been 40 years since they left Egypt. God had spared the city for that amount of time, and still they had several more days before judgment came to them.

3. Rahab had experienced the grace and patience of God in giving her time to come to faith in Him.

### ***Illustration***

Friend, how many years has the Lord given you? How many times has He knocked on your heart's door? How many times has He called you to faith? You that are saved, how many times did the Lord call before you responded in faith? What a gracious God we serve!

However, the lost should be very careful about presuming upon the grace of God. The Bible makes it crystal clear that there is a limit to patience in calling the lost to come to Him for salvation.

(Isaiah 55:6) "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:"

(Proverbs 27:1) "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

(Proverbs 29:1) "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

It is a dangerous thing to delay coming to the Lord! If you have been holding off and waiting for something, wait no more! Come to Jesus while He is calling you!

### **1. Rahab The Call Girl**

## 2. RAHAB THE CONVERTED GIRL (v. 2-11)

### A. She Heard The Word (v. 10-11)

(Joshua 2:10-11) "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. {11} And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."

1. Rahab heard about the God of Israel. It was a message of judgment that she heard, but it introduced her to the true and living God. The message that came was to her a message of life!

### *Illustration*

My friends, there is still a message of life that is being proclaimed around the world. This is the only message that can take the vilest sinner and make him a new creation. That message is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This message tells us about a God who loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins on a cross.

This Son suffered in terrible agony and shed His blood that our sin debt might be paid. Then, 3 days later, this same man who died for us on that cross arose from the

dead to bring eternal life to everyone who will call on His Name, 1 Cor. 15:3-4.

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4) "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; {4} And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

It is this message that you need to hear today. It is the only message that will bring eternal life to a person dead in sin!

### B. She Heeded The Word (v. 9-11)

(Joshua 2:9-11) "And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. {10} For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. {11} And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."

1. Not only did Rahab hear the message, but she heeded it as well.
2. This message produced a response of faith in the heart of Rahab.



- a. The fact that she believed the message is proven by what she says about God.
- b. Even Heb. 11:31 tells us of the faith of Rahab.
- c. She heard the message and she acted on it in belief.

### ***Illustration***

My friends, this is exactly what must happen in the life of the lost person to bring them to Jesus. They must hear the message and then they must act on that message by accepting Jesus as their Savior by faith.

The Bible tells us in Romans 10:17 that "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

As the message of salvation is heard and believed in the heart, salvation becomes a reality in the life of the believer. **0**

1. Rahab The Call Girl
2. Rahab The Converted Girl

### **3. RAHAB THE COMPLETED GIRL (v. 12-22)**

#### ***Illustration***

After Rahab came to faith in the true and living God, her life was forever changed! What God did with her is a miracle of His love and grace. By the way, He has no respect of persons, therefore, what He did for Rahab, He can do for you. He used her in a mighty fashion. He can use you as well!

#### **A. The Proof Of Her Completion (v. 12-22)**

1. She Labored For The Lord (v. 1-7)

2. She Loved The Lost (v. 12-13)

Notice that Rahab is concerned about others in her family who are in danger as well. She now knows that God will take care of her. She wants the same assurance for her family. Her heart is moved to reach out for help for them. Imagine what risk she placed herself at in telling her family of her plan.

#### ***Illustration***

In this aspect of her life, Rahab is a picture of the person who comes to faith in Christ. One of the first things that happens when a person gets saved is that they want to bring others to the Savior.

Notice John 1:35-42; Mark 5:18-20.

(John 1:35-42) "Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; {36} And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! {37} And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. {38} Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, **What seek ye?** They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? {39} He saith unto them, **Come and see.** They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. {40} One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. {41} He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. {42} And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, **Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas,** which is by interpretation, A stone."

(Mark 5:18-20) "And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. {19} Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.** {20} And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel."

One of the surest signs of salvation is a desire to tell others about the Savior. Rahab proved she was saved. Can the same be said for us?

## B. The Payoff Of Her Completion

1. She Found A New Freedom  
(Josh. 6:20-25)

### ***Illustration***

What a picture is given here. When a new believer places his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, he is immediately delivered from the penalty of his sins, which is Hell, Rom. 5:9!

(Romans 5:9) "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

### 2. She Found A New Family (Josh. 6:25)

(Joshua 6:25) "And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho."

### ***Illustration***

So it is for the lost person who trusts Jesus for salvation. Instantly, they are transformed from sinner to saint. They are no longer under the curse of God, but they become the children of God. As a result, they become the partakers of everything the Lord has for His children down here

### 3. She Found A New Fame (Matt. 1:5)

(Matthew 1:5) "And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;"

- a. Rahab was taken from the house of shame and wound up in the hall of fame.

- b. This woman became an ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, she was David's great-great grandmother and she was the mother-in-law of Ruth.
- c. God took her from the very gutter and made her eternally famous. He gave this trusting sinner a place in His eternal, divine plan.

### *Illustration*

What the Lord did for Rahab, He can and will do for you! You might think that God wouldn't have you because you have been so wicked. The truth of the matter is that the Lord loves you just as you are and that He will take you, save you and make your life one of blessing and honor for His glory. You see, God specializes in taking old, lost sinners, saving them by His grace and then using them to touch the world by His power, 1 Cor. 1:26-29.

(1 Corinthians 1:26-29) "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27} But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; {28} And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: {29} That no flesh should glory in his presence."

Here is the bottom line. God can take your life today, change it by His power and use you for His glory. He won't make you an ancestor of Christ like He did Rahab, but you can be assured that you will become the ancestor of new believers as you allow the Lord to use your life. You may not become famous down here, but they will know who you are in Heaven! Imagine arriving in Heaven and being greeted by some you led to Jesus!)

*Close:*

Well, it's plain to see that Rahab isn't the girl she used to be! What about you my friend? Are you really saved today? If you were to die right now and stand before the Lord and He looked down at you and you looked up at Him and He said, "Why should I let you into my Heaven?" What would you say? Could you say, "Father, I should be allowed into Heaven because as a sinner, I placed my faith in Jesus Christ, and in His shed blood and His resurrection from the dead. I have nothing else to claim but faith in Christ."

My friend. If your answer would have to be anything else, then you need to come this morning and trust Jesus as your Savior. You need to be saved, and let me assure you that there is grace in Christ this morning to save your soul!

Christian friends, many of you have been less than God saved you to be. Do you need to come and make some

things right with God today? This altar is open for those who need it.

God took an old harlot by the name of Rahab and saved her by grace and used her for His glory. He wants to do the same for you. Will you come and do what He is asking you to do today?