

# Shining From the Shadows

## ~ Rahab ~

**Matthew 1:5,6; Joshua 2-6**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / 08-May-2016*

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### I. You are Rahab. I am Rahab.

Failure to properly identify with Rahab will cause you to miss so much in this historical account. If you're a Christian, you have more in common with Rahab than you may realize at first glance.

#### A. Rahab was saved by faith.

**Joshua 2:11** <sup>11</sup>for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

We are saved by faith.

**Eph. 2:8,9** <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

#### B. Rahab's faith was exemplified by her actions.

**Joshua 2:4,9a** <sup>4</sup>But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. <sup>9</sup>...and [Rahab] said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land,..."

As Christians, we show our faith is real by our actions.

**James 2:24-24** <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup>For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

#### C. Rahab's life could be spared only if she followed specific instructions given to her by Joshua's spies.

**Joshua 2:18** <sup>18</sup>Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down,...

Our only hope to be saved from destruction is our one and only Savior, Jesus Christ.

**John 14:6** <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Acts 4:12** <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

D. Rahab's faith enabled her to turn AWAY from her work, her culture, her people, her religion, and TO the Lord.

**Joshua 6:23,25** <sup>23</sup>So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel... <sup>25</sup>But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Our faith enables us to say NO to sin and YES to good works and becoming more like Christ.

**Eph. 2:10** <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Rom. 8:28,29** <sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,

**II. Rahab's legacy is not one of shame and reproach. She's a trophy of grace in the hall of God's transforming faith!**

**Hebrews 11:31** <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

**James 2:25** <sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?

Christ is our propitiation (Rom. 3:25; 1 Jn. 2:2,4:10), a wrath-absorbing sacrifice for all who believe in Him. The judgment we deserve as sinners was laid on Jesus Christ when He died as our substitute on the cross.

More than that, Christ absorbed our shame. He enables us to live lives worthy of His name and our calling as followers of Christ!

**Rom. 10:11** <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

**Hebrews 12:2** <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **III. Rahab serves as a reminder to us that God doesn't use the perfect. He perfects the used!**

**1 Cor. 1:28-31** <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."