

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

## Women of the Bible -Rehab

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Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. Joshua 2:1

- Some folks are defined by their occupations, and that’s clearly the case with Rahab. Truth is, her job was practically her last name. Rahab-the-Harlot. but she wasn’t called “Rahab the Brain.” She was the sort of woman everyone talked about but not to, especially not in public. Prostitutes were social outcasts—ostracized moral lepers, tolerated but in no way honored. Even the men who beat a path to her door at night turned their backs on her by the light of day, as did the rest of Jericho.
- Two things not discussed in Scripture are worth remembering: First, this was a woman who knew how to handle men. Knew how they thought, how they behaved, and what they needed. Second, according to rabbinical tradition, Rahab was one of the four most beautiful women in the ancient world, along with Sarah, Abigail, and Esther.
- no husband to provide for her or protect. She was on her own but not alone in life. Her family—father and mother, sisters and brothers, no mention of children—
- Why did they stay there? Didn’t the wisdom of the ages warn against it, as Solomon, Rahab’s own descendant, would caution men four centuries later? **Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house. Proverbs 5:8** it was the location of her house in the city wall.

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The king of Jericho was told, “Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” Joshua 2:2 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.” Joshua 2:3

- Rahab was faced with a difficult choice, much more challenging than the one Delilah was given. when a handsome stranger darkened her door. In Delilah's case the authorities offered her money for information on the stranger. In Rahab's case they not only didn't offer a reward; they implied a threat on her life if she didn't cooperate.

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But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from." Joshua 2:4 "At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went." Joshua 2:5 "Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." Joshua 2:5

- Brave, fearless Rahab risked life and limb to hide two men she'd barely met. And not only hide them—she lied for them. Rahab's actions were even more courageous because these men were not family; they were strangers.

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Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that ..." Joshua 2:8 " a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you." Joshua 2:9

- Hold it, honey. The Lord? Would that be Baal or some other, lesser god? Do you mean the God, the one true God, the God of the Israelites, revealed his holiness to you? You, of all people—a woman, a hooker, unmarried and unworthy, the lovely but unloved Rahab?

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"When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." Joshua 2:11

- Rahab, the harlot, the Canaanite, the worshiper of Baal and worse, had come to her senses. “God is God!” She’d seen the power of Jehovah God at work, accepted the reality of his existence, and confessed with her mouth to these witnesses that the One they called God was God, the almighty God.
- “First she heard the Word, then she believed. This belief led to faith, which then led to works. In the process, she was saved.”<sup>4</sup> What a familiar progression to readers of the New Testament!
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“Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you.” Joshua 2:12

- Rahab was even more concerned about the lives of others.
- to this point suggest that she’s merely a determined overseer of her family’s welfare, and bless her for that. What family wouldn’t want a warrior princess like Rahab fighting for its safety?

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“Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land.” Joshua 2:14

- Her newfound faith empowered her to trust these complete strangers—and a strange, new God—to save her life. Their seasoned faith enabled them to trust a harlot wearing her changed heart on her sleeve to save them from death.

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So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. Joshua 2:15

- Why do I get the feeling this escape route had been used before? Most of us don't keep a rope strong enough to support a man tucked away in our bedroom closets, just in case. But Rahab did.

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Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee. Joshua 2:18

- Scarlet. Now there's a color that makes a statement. The Scarlet Letter. A scarlet woman. "Though your sins are like scarlet ..."5 Scarlet reeks of fallen women, of red-light districts, Rahab's sins were as scarlet as the thread that draped from her window, and every bit as obvious. Oh, can I identify with that! That's why God's grace is so amazing. When we confess our sins—literally let them all hang out like Rahab's red thread—and repent, leaving the old life behind as Rahab did, we are forgiven and washed clean, without a spot or blemish left. We no longer look like scarlet sinners; we look like grateful grace-bearers. On Rahab—on all of us—red is a very becoming color when it signifies a confession of our sins and our desire to trust God. Red is also the symbol of blood, of life flowing into death. Or, more accurately, death flowing into life, like the red blood of a sacrificial lamb smeared over the doorpost of a house so that all who lived there might be spared when the Lord passed over. Or like the doubly thick scarlet cloth that kept a woman's family safe and warm:
- "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet." Prov. 31:21

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"But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear." "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. Joshua 2:20-21

- The Hebrew terms used here for "rope" and "cord" are different words, so it wasn't the dangling escape rope that was scarlet but a smaller cord—a mere ribbon, some translations say. Notice she tied it in the window the minute their feet hit the ground. A regular Girl Scout, this one. Be prepared. It was a foreshadowing of the New Testament as well:
- "Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." Matt 25:13

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“Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.” Joshua 6:17

- Rahab and her family waited, holding their breath inside her house, while outside their whole world fell apart.
- A rescue mission...

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Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” Joshua 6:22

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But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day. Joshua 6:25

- We serve a God that keeps his promises
- Unlike Lot’s wife, Rahab did not look back with longing at her city or her possessions. She became part of the Israelite community and lived among them “to this day,” not in the flesh but through her descendants. She was a beautiful woman, inside and out. It’s only natural that Salmon, perhaps one of the two unnamed spies who saw her embrace his God with passionate abandon, would embrace her himself. As his wife. From the ashes of Jericho, romance bloomed.

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Matt 1:5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, ...

- She’s in the lineage of Jesus.

*(Some notes and study came from the book by Higgs, Liz Curtis. Bad Girls of the Bible.)*