

=LITTLE-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS=

Lesson 4

Rahab

SCRIPTURES: Joshua 2; 6:22-26; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25.

BACKGROUND: God had given the land into the hands of Joshua. Joshua made plans for taking the land, as any good leader would do, whether military or spiritual. He sent two spies to study the lay of the land and to bring back a report that they might formulate their plan and their program for handling the business of God. God led them to the door of Rahab, who was their protectress while they were in the enemy territory. James 2:25 describes her actions in protecting these men as being the personification of a working faith.

- I. THE CHANGES WROUGHT BY FAITH. Read Joshua 2:1. Compare it with Matthew 1:5. Notice that Rahab is listed here in the genealogy of Jesus! What great changes are wrought by faith! Isaiah 1:18, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” John 1:12, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

- II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH.
 1. Rahab knew how to keep silent when silence was needed. Joshua 2:14a, “And the men answered her, Our life for your’s, if ye utter not this our business.”
 2. Rahab could calmly arrive at a remedy for a difficult situation. Joshua 2:15, 16, “Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.”
 3. Rahab was willing to put her own life in jeopardy to protect God’s people. Joshua 2:3, 4, “And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were.”
 4. Rahab was concerned enough about the safety of God’s people to exert herself to protect them. Joshua 2:6, “But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.”
 5. Rahab was more concerned about her family than about herself. Joshua 2:13, “And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”
 6. Rahab openly took a stand before she was actually called upon to do so. See Joshua 2:21.
 7. Rahab was willing to make godliness a 24-hour business.
 8. Rahab could live under the critical eyes of those who knew what she had been. Compare verses in the Bible that refer to Rahab. With the exception of one verse in the genealogy, she is referred to in every case as a harlot.

- III. THE CLAIMANTS OF FAITH. Rahab, by being a harlot, was specifically forbidden to make an offering. See Deuteronomy 23:18. Rahab had no method of making a sacrifice that would cover her sins. Her only hope was by faith in Another. We are still under the same situation in that we have nothing good to offer God; we have no way of coming to be part of the family of God unless we are willing to take the work of Another.