

# ***Rahab: Prostitute & Proof of Grace***

*Sisters for Christ  
September 11, 2013*

## **Joshua 2:1-21**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The king of Jericho was told, “Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.” <sup>3</sup> 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.”

<sup>4</sup> 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.” <sup>5</sup> At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don’t know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” <sup>6</sup> (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) <sup>7</sup> So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

- *Describe the risk Rahab was taking in hiding these spies.*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *Agree or Disagree: Rahab sinned, when she lied about the spies.*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- *What guidance do the following passages provide, when it seems that you are faced with a choice between wrong and wrong?*
  - *1 Corinthians 10:13 - <sup>13</sup> No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

- *Acts 5:29* -<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”
  
- *Colossians 1:9-14* -<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.<sup>10</sup> And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,<sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully<sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
  
- *Romans 8:28* -<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
  
- *Luke 11:2-4* -<sup>2</sup> He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.<sup>4</sup> Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’ ”

### **Joshua 2:8-21**

<sup>8</sup> Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof<sup>9</sup> and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.<sup>10</sup> We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign<sup>13</sup> that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death.”

<sup>14</sup> “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.”

<sup>15</sup> So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. <sup>16</sup> Now she had said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”

<sup>17</sup> The men said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us <sup>18</sup> unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. <sup>19</sup> If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible. As for anyone who is in the house with you, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. <sup>20</sup> But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear.”

<sup>21</sup> “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.

- *Give evidence that Rahab acted in faith, and not just in fear for her own life.*

- *List ways that Rahab put her faith into action.*

## **Joshua 6:20-25**

<sup>20</sup> When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup> They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

<sup>22</sup> 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.” <sup>23</sup> So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD’s house. <sup>25</sup> 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.

- *Describe what this must have been like for Rahab and her family.*

### **Matthew 1:1,5-6a**

<sup>1</sup> A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

<sup>5</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,  
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,  
Obed the father of Jesse,

<sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

- *Rahab is one of only five women mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (along with Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary). How is the mention of her name a beautiful reminder of the extent of God's grace?*

### **Hebrews 11:31**

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

### **James 2:25**

<sup>25</sup> In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup> As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

- *What is the point that both of these passages make about the faith of Rahab?*
  
- *Based on our entire study, put into your own words what it means to have a faith like Rahab's.*