

Life Group notes 8 Dec 2024 – A Message for Everyone: Rahab

Preached by Beks <https://www.npbc.org.nz/sermons/a-message-for-everyone-rahab/>

This week we will be working through the story of Rahab and the spies in Joshua 2 – It's the second sermon in the Christmas series called "A Message for everyone"

We find this propensity within humanity to judge what we find to be 'other' and it extends beyond ethnic boundaries to most aspects of our life.

We tend to think of what we know and are comfortable with as good, and the things we don't understand or are opposite or different from us, as bad. Our group of people is "us" and everyone else is "they". But if you look at the world from a different perspective, we are the odd ones.

We often struggle with aspects of other cultures, the way different generations speak or dress, the values and idea of different religions. And it becomes all too easy to look down on those who live a life that we would consider morally wrong.

Q: Have you ever felt like you are judged as an outsider because you are different? Have you ever found yourself drawing stereotypical conclusions of others?

Today we are going to be looking at the story of someone who was considered "Other" or an outsider 3 times over.

Read: Joshua chapter 2:1-24

Q: What do we read about Rahab that would have made her an unreliable witness or result in her not being taken seriously?

First, she had the misfortune of being female. Second, she was a Canaanite. Third, she was a prostitute.

Do you notice that it's Rahab and not the spies that initiate all the action here? Rahab hides the spies. She sends the king's men on a wild goose chase, she makes a covenant with the spies, she helps them escape, she agrees to their terms and gives them more ideas for how to escape detection.

1. Books don't always reflect their cover

Commentators agree that Rahab was a Canaanite prostitute, there is also reasonable evidence that she ran an inn. The spies going to an inn to gather information makes a lot of sense. Rahab was also likely disliked by both Israelite and Canaanite cultures.

However, there was something different about her – she is someone who acknowledges the power of the God of Israel and seeks after his protection for her and her family

Read: Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25

Q: How is she remembered in the New Testament?

Never miss an opportunity to share with others what you have found in Christ.

Discuss this statement in your group: We don't need to agree with how people choose to live, but we need to be in relationship with them so we can share the good news of the gospel.

2. Share the little things

Read: verses 8 –11 again

Q: What did Rahab hear about the God of the Israelites? What was her view of God?

Sharing about what God has done for us, can have a big impact in someone's life. The rumours about what God had done in Egypt and with the Red Sea had gone out far and wide. It made some people wonder, it made others terrified, it made Rahab believe. She simply heard about God and decided for herself that he was all powerful and the only one who could save her.

Q: So, what is your view of God or is it too small? Are you challenged by Rahab's faith – seeing God as bigger than your circumstances?

Q: Have you ever shared about what God has done in your life and impacted others with your testimony? Or can you recall how someone else impacted you with their testimony?

3. Rahab's faith allowed her to be grafted in

Read: verse 14

Q: What would Rahab receive in exchange for keeping her commitment to Israel?

Read: Joshua 6:22-23

Rahab was considered very much an outsider. Her gender, her profession, and her ethnicity counted her out. Yet she is recorded as not only being allowed to dwell with Israel, but she became part of the greatest story ever told. Rahab went from outsider, to one of God's chosen people. She not only got to leave behind her old home, but also her old life. And she didn't just get to live near them, she became one of them.

Turn to **Matthew Chapter 1 – look at verse 5. Where does Rahab get acknowledged in the lineage of Jesus? Who comes after her that is of significance?**

She is the mother of Boaz. She is the great-grandmother of King David. And she is listed in the lineage of Jesus. She was a relative of Jesus!

Conclusion:

Rahab's story shows us God's heart for the world. He really does mean it when he says anyone who comes to him will be saved. Rahab believed that the God of Israel was almighty God and that he was only one who could save her. And for her faith and obedience she was grafted into the family of God and the lineage of Jesus.

Similarly, when you are saved, you are fully saved. You become part of the family. We have become Children of God. When God saves, he does it completely.

Be careful that we are not judging people in a way that hinders us from being able to share the good news of Jesus. We need to talk about what God has done for us all the time; you never know who is listening and what God might do with that information. And we need to rest in the FACT that when God saves, it is full and complete and beautiful.