



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth

Supports Session 2: Amazing Grace

Sermon Title: "Faith in the Shadows" (Joshua 2:1-24)

Connection to Session 2

Just as Christians today experience God's grace, so did people in the Old Testament. Through faith, Rahab experienced salvation because she hid the two spies in her home. Just as Rahab received grace, so can people today, no matter their past. It is by grace through faith that we are saved (Eph. 2:8).

Introduction/Opening

Joshua sent two spies into Jericho to "scout the land" (Josh. 2:1), and they found themselves at the house of a prostitute, Rahab. While Rahab's house may not have been where they expected to be, God used it for His glory. We can't know for sure why the spies went to Rahab's house, but we can be thankful that faith can take root in anyone's heart at any time.

Outline

1. Faith acts courageously (vv. 1-7)

- a. Sometimes God's plans involve unlikely people or situations. Here in Joshua 2, God used someone who, though she had a troubled past, had heard of the power of God and decided to help. God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
- b. Faith over fear. That is what Rahab showed when she was questioned about the men (vv. 3-5). She was willing to trust God even when it was risky. Her faith was put to the test, and she passed. Obedience requires courage in the face of fear.

2. Faith believes God's power and promises (vv. 8-14)

- a. Rahab shared the stories that had heard about the power of the God of the Israelites (vv. 8-10). Romans 10:17 says that "faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ." Rahab trusted God and believed by faith.

- b.** Rahab confessed God to be the one true God (v. 11). Coming to faith in God means believing and confessing who He says He is. All other “gods” are put to shame by the one true God of the Bible.
- c.** Faith produces action (vv. 12-14). Rahab interceded for her family by asking that they be shown mercy and their lives be spared. Faith causes people to want to bring others to experience forgiveness and mercy. Real faith leads to action and obedience.

3. Faith waits on God’s salvation (vv. 15-24)

- a.** Similar to the Passover (Ex. 12), the scarlet cord was a symbol of the redemptive shedding of blood that pointed to what Jesus would do on the cross for all mankind. It showed that faith in God leads to mercy and forgiveness, which anyone can find in Jesus Christ.
- b.** Rahab’s faith not only saved her and her household, but it also encouraged Joshua and the people of God. They saw that God protected Rahab and her family and provided a way for them to be saved. When people obediently follow the Lord, it encourages others, too.

Conclusion

The story of Rahab is a story of redemption. God used her and her faith to bring about His plan. She went from being an enemy of God to being in the lineage of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 1:5). Faith hears God’s truth, believes His power, acts courageously, and rests in His salvation. Where do you need to trust God? Is there a situation or person in your life that God wants to use for His glory?

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