

# WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

## SERMON NOTES

Week 3 May 15, 2022

“Rahab”

Joshua 2



### I. A Harlot

- A. Rahab was a prostitute and resident of \_\_\_\_\_, the city where Joshua sent two spies.
- B. Your \_\_\_\_\_ does not determine your future.
- C. The enemy likes to \_\_\_\_\_ in your ear, telling you the lie that what you have been is all you will ever be.

### II. God’s Plans

- A. Most of us severely \_\_\_\_\_ God’s plans for us.
- B. Acting on the little information she had, Rahab became a key part of God’s plan for our \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. We might say Rahab’s actions to hide Israel’s spies were an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. The Scarlet Cord

- A. The scarlet cord recalls the blood of the sacrificial lamb at \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The scarlet cord anticipates the cross of Christ, where Christ’s blood would bring about our \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. In the New Testament books of Hebrews and James, Rahab is commended for her \_\_\_\_\_.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *May 16-21, 2022*

## **INTRODUCTION: Joshua 2**

With instructions from God, Joshua prepares God's people for the battle of Jericho. God tells them over and over "to be strong and courageous." To prepare for battle, Joshua sends two spies into the city to size up the situation. They wind up at the home of Rahab, who becomes an unlikely hero. Rahab is one of the Bible's most fascinating and unique characters. Although not an Israelite, she makes daring decisions to follow God, based on the little information she had. Ultimately, she becomes a key figure in God's redemption story, and is listed as part of Jesus' family tree.

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## **Monday: Joshua 1:1-6**

You do not have to read very far into the Book of Joshua to see its theme emerge. "Be strong and courageous" is repeated over and over. God communicates the task ahead, and courage would be needed to accomplish it. Notice courage was not necessarily part of Joshua or Israelites' "personality trait." Rather, Joshua knew that God was with him and that is all that mattered. In your situation, what character trait do you need? Perhaps you need to be courageous—or perhaps you need to be more loving, gracious or compassionate. As you pray today, pray for the trait that you need most as God goes with you.

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## **Tuesday: Joshua 2:1-14**

Over the next few days we will look closely at Joshua 2. The Israelites sent spies into Jericho, a city promised to them. Rahab is described as a "prostitute" or possibly an inn-keeper, but either way, she was an unexpected source of help. She ensured the spies' escape in exchange for her family's protection. Are you in the middle of a challenge? Remember that God can provide help from very unexpected sources. A song chorus says, "God will make a way, where there seems to be no way." Pray that your eyes would be open to God's way for your situation.

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## **Wednesday: Joshua 2:1-14**

Joshua's army was ill-equipped, and seemed very unlikely to have the ability to break down or scale the walls of Jericho. Rahab, however, had heard what God had done for the Israelites in the past, so she put her trust in Israel's God. As Christ-followers, we know that God has proven His love and power, giving us His Son to die for our salvation (Rom. 5:8) and raising Him to new life (Rom. 1:4). Reflect on God's faithfulness to you in the past. Pray today that you could see reason to trust Him for your present and your future.

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## **Thursday: Joshua 2:1-14**

Rahab would have grown up with a pagan world view, and yet she had heard stories of the Israelite God. "We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt..." (Joshua 2:10a), she says. Despite having little knowledge of Israel's God, Rahab was drawn to know more. Do you tell the stories of God's greatness? Do you tell of your joy in Christ? You never know when a heart may be ready to respond. Pray that you would have courage today to tell the story of your faith.

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## **Friday: Joshua 2:15-24; Hebrews 11:31**

Rahab's fear turned into awe for the Lord as she came to believe in the God of Israel. In the New Testament, we read that her actions are credited to her as faith. Her faith led to the salvation of her entire family. She went on to live in Israel, becoming the great, great grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:21; Matt. 1:5). Her story reminds us that God is in the process of making all of us new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Does Rahab's story inspire you to pray for someone in particular? Or maybe yourself? Pray for someone who needs to experience newness of life.

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## **MOVING FORWARD: Joshua 2:18**

Many commentators have noted that the line of scarlet cord that Rahab needed to hang from her window for protection, recalls God's protection of the Israelites when they placed the blood of the sacrificial lamb above their doors at the Passover. And the cord serves as an emblem of the blood of Christ on the cross, shed for us, for our salvation. Rahab believed in a God who had dried up the water of the Red Sea and who was God of heaven above and the earth beneath. Her faith brought about her shelter and protection, and raised her up to become an ancestress of Christ. Whatever one's lowliness, shame, or status as an exile or outcast, God does can do wonders we may not even be able to imagine. As you move into next week, see what wonders God may do!

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Jericho, B) past, C) whisper. IIA) underestimate, B) rescue/redemption, C) civil disobedience. IIIA) Passover, B) salvation, C) faith.*