

Sermon Devotional

Joshua 2:1-16

Then Joshua son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and spent the night there. 2The king of Jericho was told, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to search out the land." 3Then the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come only to search out the whole land." 4But the woman took the two men and hid them. Then she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they came from. 5And when it was time to close the gate at dark, the men went out. Where the men went I do not know. Pursue them quickly, for you can overtake them." 6She had, however, brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax that she had laid out on the roof. 7So the men pursued them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. As soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.

8Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof 9and said to the men: "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that dread of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you. 10For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites that were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below. 12Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith 13that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." 14The men said to her, "Our life for yours! If you do not tell this business of ours, then we will deal kindly and faithfully with you when the Lord gives us the land." 15Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the outer side of the city wall and she resided within the wall itself. 16She said to them, "Go toward the hill country, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers have returned; then afterward you may go your way."

[Second Reading – Hebrews 11:24-35 \(read online\)](#)



Learn

- Jericho is located by an oasis a few miles from the Jordan River and Dead Sea. Its strategic location and abundance of water made it an ideal location for a fortress and city. It holds the distinction of being the lowest city in the world (825 feet below sea level) and the oldest city in the world (9000's BC). It was destroyed and rebuilt several times via earthquake and fire.
- The Jewish historian Josephus referred to Rahab as an innkeeper rather than prostitute as mentioned in the Biblical text. It is possible she ran an inn for low income travelers that also functioned as a brothel. There is no reference or implication that the Jewish spies in the text did anything other than staying in the inn.
- Rahab became an important figure later on. Rabbinical texts speak glowingly of her, even stating that she was one of the four most beautiful women in history (Esther was also on the list). She is referred to as a model of faith in the New Testament (Hebrews 11, James 2:25-26), and it's possible that she is the same Rahab mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew.



Reflect

- Why do you think Rahab was willing to believe the rumors of God's power and cast her lot with the Jewish people and their God?
- Why do you think the Bible refers to Rahab by name, but the Jewish spies remain nameless?
- Out of all the faithful people in the Old Testament, why do you think Rahab was specifically praised in Hebrews 11 and James 2?



Pray

Holy God, help me to see what I have rather than what I do not have. Help me to see the doors you have opened, not just the doors you have closed.



Live

- What do you believe so strongly that you're willing to take real risks on behalf of that belief?
- What has God given you that you can use for God's purposes?