

## “Extraordinary Women of the Bible – Rahab”

1. Rahab would be described as an \_\_\_\_\_ woman living in a pagan culture that was fanatically devoted to EVERYthing God hates.
2. The culture that described Jericho was on the brink of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God had called for the complete destruction of the entire culture because of their \_\_\_\_\_ wickedness.
4. Setting the stage for today’s teaching:
  - Moses had died. (Joshua 1:1-2)
  - The generation of Israelites who had come out of Egypt were all dead.
  - More than a million Israelites had originally let Egypt under Moses’ leadership. (Exodus 12:37)
  - Because of that generation’s collective stubbornness and persistent unbelief, when they first reached the borders of Canaan, the Promised Land, everyone over 20 years of age was prohibited from entering.
  - Just think....an ENTIRE generation was doomed to die in the wilderness.
  - However, there were 2 significant exceptions. (Numbers 14:30)
  - Joshua & Caleb – these 2 men along with 10 others had scouted the Promised Land together for Moses.
  - They had returned with an enthusiastic report concerning the prospects of Israel’s new homeland.
  - The other 10 men returned with a conflicting report, discouraged, warning of the many dangers that lay ahead.
  - The Israelites balked, griped, and complained about entering the land, staging a “mutiny” against Moses and God.
  - God has told them that Canaan was to be the land He was giving to them, and yet, when the spies became overwhelmed with some of the “giant” people living in the land that they would have to wage war against - their fears and frustrations took over.
  - Because of their unbelief in trusting God to give them the land, a “divine judgment” fell upon the nations. They ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years until the present generation had all died.
  - Now...fast forward 38 years and we find the Jews situation again on the doorstep of Canaan, almost directly across the river from Jericho.
  - By this time, Joshua had been appointed as leader over the whole nation in Moses’ place.

- Being a wise leader, just like his brother, Moses, Joshua sent spies ahead to gather military and strategic information about what lay on the other side of the Jordan River.
  - This time, Joshua sent only 2 men with these two instructions: “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” (Joshua 2:1)
  - Scripture says in Joshua 2:1, “So they went and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.”
  - Interesting that Rahab is the very first person Scripture introduces to us in the Promised Land.
  - This woman would become one of the ‘linchpins’ of Israel’s military triumph.
  - Her whole life, her career, and her future would be changed by her surprise encounter with the 2 spies.
  - Keep in mind that the spies’ collaboration with Rahab was the beginning of the downfall of Jericho.
  - Jericho’s defeat was the 1<sup>st</sup> dramatic conquest in one of history’s greatest military campaigns ever.
5. Joshua 2:1-7 describes an unexpected act of kindness. “Joshua son of Nun secretly sent out two spies from Acacia and said to them, “Go and look at the land, particularly at the city of Jericho.” So the men went to Jericho and stayed at the house of a prostitute named Rahab. <sup>2</sup> Someone told the king of Jericho, “Some men from Israel 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. They have come to spy out our whole land.” <sup>4</sup> But the woman had hidden the two men. She said, “They did come here, but I didn’t know where they came from. <sup>5</sup> In the evening, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don’t know where they went, but if you go quickly, maybe you can catch them.” <sup>6</sup> (The woman had taken the men up to the roof and had hidden them there under stalks of flax that she had spread out.) <sup>7</sup> So the king’s men went out looking for the spies on the road that leads to the crossings of the Jordan River. The city gate was closed just after the king’s men left the city.”
6. Once the 2 spies entered the city, the ideal place would be an inn or a house on the wall itself. From there they could access the city’s
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7. By God's \_\_\_\_\_ providence, everything the spies needed was in place.
8. Rahab's actions in protecting the spies involved the telling of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 12:22 says: "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."

9. Scriptures teaches us that God Himself cannot lie, (refer to Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19; I Samuel 15:29), and therefore, He cannot condone or \_\_\_\_\_ a lie.
10. But, there is NO greater good than the truth, and the cause of truth can \_\_\_\_\_ served by lying.
11. God certainly could have \_\_\_\_\_ Rahab and the spies without a lie.
12. The Bible never commends the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Rahab is NOT applauded for her \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Rahab is a positive example of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Rahab's faith, undeveloped as it was, immediately bore the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. She "received the spies with peace." (Hebrews 11:3) – meaning that she NOT only hid them, but also implicitly \_\_\_\_\_ their cause.
17. Rahab \_\_\_\_\_ her whole future to their God.
18. The commendable action was the fact that she turned down an easy \_\_\_\_\_, put herself jeopardy, and staked everything on the God of Israel.

19. Joshua 2:8-14 says: "Before the spies went to sleep for the night, Rahab went up to the roof. <sup>9</sup> She said to them, "I know the LORD has given this land to your people. You frighten us very much. Everyone living in this land is terribly afraid of you <sup>10</sup> because we have heard how the LORD dried up the Red Sea when you came out of Egypt. We have heard how you destroyed Sihon and Og, two Amorite kings who lived east of the Jordan. <sup>11</sup> When we heard this, we were very frightened. Now our men are afraid to fight you because the LORD your God rules the heavens above and the earth below! <sup>12</sup> So now, promise me before the LORD that you will show kindness to my family just as I showed kindness to you. Give me some proof that you will do this. <sup>13</sup> Allow my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all of their families to live. Save us from death." <sup>14</sup> The men agreed and said, "It will be our lives for your lives if you don't tell anyone what we are doing. When the LORD gives us the land, we will be kind and true to you."

20. Rahab is a beautiful example of the \_\_\_\_\_ power of faith.  
Although she had FEW spiritual advantages and LITTLE  
knowledge of the truth, her heart was drawn to God.
21. Rahab was, and is still a living \_\_\_\_\_ of the TRANSFORMING  
effect of saving faith in God.