

## Joshua 2 Why Rahab?

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I have been thinking through Joshua 2 a lot this last week. There are a number of interesting questions that it brings up. I will list some of them below for you to consider. My thoughts have been focused on Rahab and what it was that made her different.

Rahab was a harlot. Many people when they read the story of Rahab and the spies ask, “Why Rahab?” “How could God use a prostitute of all people?” In essence, she was perhaps the least likely person in Jericho to be “saved” from destruction. Isn’t that exactly how God always works? Think of the people throughout history that God called to Himself. Think through the life of Christ. His disciples were spiritual cast offs and misfits. The woman in [Luke 7](#) was most likely a prostitute like Rahab. The woman at the well. Saul of Tarsus. God is in the business of redeeming the seemingly unredeemable. Paul says that in [1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#). God gets glory by redeeming the underserving.

The question quickly moves from, “Why Rahab?” to “Why me?”

The point of this story is that Rahab responded in faith. Hebrews tells us that. ([Hebrews 11:31](#)) It was faith that actually responded to what she knew. James says the same thing. ([James 2:25](#)) Rahab responded to what she knew about God, and made decisions based on what she chose to believe. She knew that the Lord was awesome in power and judged those who were His enemies. That is the beginning of faith and proverbs declares that it is the beginning of wisdom. ([Proverbs 1:7](#))

I have been thinking about Rahab’s faith and what we can learn about faith in general from her. Faith is inherently risky. It involves taking a step of faith. It is what the writer of Hebrews called the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. ([Hebrews 11:1](#)) There is no guarantee except the one in whom we put our faith. What I don’t think that we always think about is that the risk of faith is two sided. There is a risk we must be willing to take in order to act in faith. There is a risk we must be willing to accept if we do not act in faith. The risk for Rahab to act in faith was potential death. The risk to not act in faith was potential death. It was a risk either way.

Faith is risky business, but it is there that we declare our dependence on God and it is there and only there that we learn to trust God and grow in faith. I have come to realize that to not believe God is idolatry. If we chose not to believe God who always tells us the truth, then we are choosing to believe someone else. Whatever that is becomes our God, because it is what we put our faith in.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What was the difference between Rahab and the rest of Jericho?

2. What was the potential risk for Rahab to believe God and act in faith?

3. What was the risk to not believe God and not act in faith?

4. According to the text, what made her cast her lot with the nation of Israel?

5. In what area is God calling you to walk by faith?

6. What is the perceived risk for you and what is the risk for not acting in faith?