

GOD'S SURPRISING CHOICE

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Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

Joshua 2:1–24 (NLT) (1) Then Joshua secretly sent out two spies from the Israelite camp at Acacia Grove. He instructed them, "Scout out the land on the other side of the Jordan River, especially around Jericho." So the two men set out and came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there that night. (2) But someone told the king of Jericho, "Some Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." (3) So the king of Jericho sent orders to Rahab: "Bring out the men who have come into your house, for they have come here to spy out the whole land." (4) Rahab had hidden the two men, but she replied, "Yes, the men were here earlier, but I didn't know where they were from." (5) They left the town at dusk, as the gates were about to close. I don't know where they went. If you hurry, you can probably catch up with them." (6) (Actually, she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them beneath bundles of flax she had laid out.) (7) So the king's men went looking for the spies along the road leading to the shallow crossings of the Jordan River. And as soon as the king's men had left, the gate of Jericho was shut. (8) Before the spies went to sleep that night, Rahab went up on the roof to talk with them. (9) "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. (10) For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. (11) No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. (12) "Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that (13) when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families." (14) "We offer our own lives as a guarantee for your safety," the men agreed. "If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the LORD gives us the land." (15) Then, since Rahab's house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window. (16) "Escape to the hill country," she told them. "Hide there for three days from the men searching for you. Then, when they have returned, you can go on your way." (17) Before they left, the men told her, "We will be bound by the oath we have taken only if you follow these instructions. (18) When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from the window through which you let us down. And all your family members—your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives—must be here inside the house. (19) If they go out into the street and are killed, it will not be our fault. But if anyone lays a hand on people inside this house, we will accept the responsibility for their death. (20) If you betray us, however, we are not bound by this oath in any way." (21) "I accept your terms," she replied. And she sent them on their way, leaving the scarlet rope hanging from the window. (22) The spies went up into the hill country and stayed there three days. The men who were chasing them searched everywhere along the road, but they finally returned without success. (23) Then the two spies came down from the hill country, crossed the Jordan River, and reported to Joshua all that had happened to them. (24) "The LORD has given us the whole land," they said, "for all the people in the land are terrified of us."

Joshua 6:22–25 (NLT) (22) Meanwhile, Joshua said to the two spies, "Keep your promise. Go to the prostitute's house and bring her out, along with all her family." (23) The men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, mother, brothers, and all the other relatives who were with her. They moved her whole family to a safe place near the camp of Israel. (24) Then the Israelites burned the town and everything in it. Only the things made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron were kept for the treasury of the LORD's house. (25) So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among the Israelites to this day.

1) We should _____ about how another person will respond to God and spiritual things.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NLT) (7) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. **People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**"

PEOPLE ARE OFTEN MORE OPEN TO SPIRITUAL THINGS THAN WE THINK.

2) **God has a plan for our life _____ and it is never too late to turn things around.**

Leviticus 19:29 (NLT) (29) "Do not defile your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will be filled with prostitution and wickedness.

Joshua 2:9–11 (NLT) (9) "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. (10) For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. (11) No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below.

GOD IS A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES.

DON'T BELIEVE THE LIE OF THE DEVIL THAT WHAT YOU DID IN YOUR PAST IS SO BAD THAT YOU CAN'T BE FORGIVEN OR EVER DO ANYTHING OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR GOD.

3) **God is looking for people whose _____ their daily lives.**

Hebrews 11:31 (NLT) (31) It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

James 2:21–26 (NLT) (21) Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? (22) You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. (23) And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. (24) So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. (25) **Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.** (26) Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

WHAT DO YOUR ACTIONS SAY ABOUT THE KIND OF FAITH YOU HAVE IN GOD?

4) **God will _____ whenever we choose to turn our life around and live for God.**

Joshua 2:12–13 (NLT) (12) "Now swear to me by the LORD that you will be kind to me and my family since I have helped you. Give me some guarantee that (13) when Jericho is conquered, you will let me live, along with my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all their families."

Matthew 1:5 (NLT) (5) Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse.

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