

UNLIKELY PEOPLE WHO COME TO GOD

JOSHUA 2

OPEN: Jericho was a strategic choice...it was one of the oldest known fortified cities of its day.

- Considered by some as “unconquerable”, “impregnable.”
- Win this battle and it would send shock waves through the region.
 - o “If Jericho can fall...none of us are safe!”
- And so just on the other side of the Jordan was a city that needed to be defeated.

1) Meet Rahab...woman with a questionable past. (PP Slide)

- Rahab the harlot, the prostitute...woman of the night.
 - ✓ What drove her to this business? Was she desperate, a loose woman, trying to provide for her family?
 - ✓ We don't know but safe to say she was at the bottom of the social ladder.
- Her story may not be your story but the truth is we are all sinners...we have all done, said and thought things that have offended God.

Romans 3:10 (NKJV) - ...it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one.

Psalms 14:2-3 (NKJV) – ²The Lord looks down from Heaven, upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand; who seek God. ³They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.

- ✓ We are all guilty of sin and when compared to the holiness of Christ, we don't measure up. (PP Slide)

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

- ✓ Maybe you feel your sin is more “respectable” but it is sin none the less.

→ Rahab reminds us that regardless of your past, God loves you and can give you a better future.

2) She makes a wise choice. (PP Slide)

- ✓ We think it not odd that the Israel scouts enter her house...it was located on the city wall and could offer an escape route.
 - The fact that men were coming and going might offer some cover.
 - In spite of wanting to stay in the shadows their whereabouts became known.
 - Here we see the sovereignty of God: He wanted them there for the salvation of this woman and her family.
 - She would become an example of a woman saved by faith.
- She could have turned the spies in, turned them away but she helped them.
- She made a choice, she had heard about their powerful God...the God who could set people free.
 - She expresses faith in the God of the Israelites.

Hebrews 11:31 (NLT) – 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.

- Her faith make it possible for her family to be rescued.

3) The scarlet rope identifies her home. (PP Slide)

- This red scarlet rope would become her “saving grace.” (PP Slide)
- Hanging outside her window and down the city wall it became an identifiable mark...all within this house will be safe.

Hebrews 13:12 (NLT) – So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make His people holy by means of his own blood.

- Like the blood on the doorpost in Egypt...all inside are protected. The death angel passed over...
- The scarlet rope hung to indicate faith inside and all were protected.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT) – ¹⁸For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver. ¹⁹It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless lamb of God.

- The blood covers our sin, secures our salvation.
- Rahab and her family would be spared.
 - She would go from Rahab the harlot to Rahab the great grandmother of King David.
 - She is mentioned in the family tree of Jesus Christ...**Matthew 1:5**

CLOSE: No matter how bad you think you are, you are not without hope.

- You can be made acceptable in God's sight.
 - The choice is yours: Will you confess your sin and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - No longer a slave to sin but a child to God!
- It's not about who you are...it's about who God wants you to become.

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