

My Prayer for Today

Loving God, thank You for the hope You have given to us all. The hope of a loving Savior who will some day come and take His faithful people to heaven is precious. Give me the courage to accept Your forgiveness and love for me. May I grow closer to You and be ready when You come.

Sharing

Let us open our arms to receive all women into our fellowship. We can encourage them, pray with them, and give them our shoulders to cry on when they need to know they are loved. As Christians who reflect Jesus Christ, we must respect all women and treat everyone kindly and lovingly.

Think of someone you know who may be treated shabbily because of past indiscretions or false rumors. How can you be supportive and also model Christian compassion to those who hold the person in low esteem?



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Women in the Bible:
Rahab
and me

Mercy and Respect



6
LESSON

Rahab

Her Name Means “Insolence” and “Fierceness”

Women in the Bible: Rahab and Me

Key Scripture: Joshua 2:1-24; Joshua 6:17-25; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

Introduction

Rahab was an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-6). Her faith brought her into an immense inheritance: from being a prostitute to becoming part of the lineage of Jesus Christ. What a change! This is what faith can do. God does not wait for us to become spotlessly clean, totally mature in our faith, in order to use us. Instead, He takes ordinary, willing people and accomplishes the extraordinary, in both their lives and the lives of those around them.

No matter what your position in life, irrespective of where you are or who you are, a simple step of faith in Jesus Christ can turn your destiny around.

Discover

- * Her Courage
- * Her Strength of Character
- * Her Faith

Going Deeper

1. Rahab is described as what? (Joshua 2:1)

2. Who came to Rahab's house? (Verse 1)

3. When the men of Jericho came searching for the two men from Israel, what did Rahab do? (Verses 2-7)

4. What risk did she take by doing so?

5. What was Rahab's opinion of the God of Israel? What did she base this on? (Verses 9-11)

6. Rahab asked the spies for a special favor. What was this favor? (Verses 12-14)

7. How did the spies escape? What did Rahab tell them to do?

8. How did the spies tell Rahab to mark her house to save her family? (Verse 18)

9. When the army of Israel took the city of Jericho, what did Joshua command the two spies to

do before they burned the city? (Joshua 6:22-23)

10. Where do we find Rahab [Rahab] mentioned in the New Testament? See Matthew 1

Words for Today

11. How is it possible for me to go beyond any and all mistakes I have made in my past and become right with God?

12. To what extent am I able to forget another person's past and give them room to grow in their Christian experience? What is my motive for doing so? What are some ways I can develop the gift of acceptance?

Questions for Discussion

1. This story tells of a series of lies told in order to save life. The choice for Rahab was to choose the lesser evil. Some say that for a Christian a lie is never justifiable, but Rahab had only a beginning knowledge of God. Considering the verse in

Acts 17:30, “The times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men to repent,” what is your opinion? Is a lie ever justified?

2. Might there be any symbolism in the scarlet cord which Rahab hung from the window?

3. Does the story of Rahab shed any light on what our attitude should be toward new converts? What is our present - day attitude toward them? What should it be?

Words of Wisdom

It is significant that Rahab is remembered in the faith chapter of Hebrews 11:31. She still continued to be known as the harlot. However, her story gives all women hope. No matter what our past, we can go forward and live a life that will be honorable and upright. The story of Rahab should remind us that God truly does cast our sins in the depths of the sea (Micah 7:29). He remembers them no more. What a wonderful promise of hope and love from our Lord!

Notes: