

Faith Like Rahab
12-1-13

When you read the record of Jesus' family tree in Matthew 1, a lot of names we recognize pop up. Heroes of our faith such as Abraham, David, Hezekiah, Josiah or Zerubbabel are easy to recognize. There are three women singled out as well: Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba (although she is not named directly). Ruth and Rahab are very interesting persons. Both were Gentiles, and both are models of faith. But it is Rahab who is often cited as a model of the faith we need to have. Consider:

Hebrews 11:31 *By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.*

James 2:24-25 *You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?*

We read about Rahab in Joshua 2:1-21. There we see what makes her so important to our walk of faith. First we see that she believed that God would deliver Jericho (and all Canaan) to the Israelites. Remember, most of Israel had failed to believe this a generation before and had perished. Now a woman who has no claim to Jehovah confesses He is God and He will triumph. Second, she believes that she would be preserved if she acted; her identity as a Canaanite and a prostitute meant nothing in the eyes of the Supreme God, if she was willing to act in Faith.

Rahab's faith was proven by works. Consider that she said that everyone in Jericho feared Israel; so why is it none acted like Rahab? While it may be common sense to us, it was uncommon in her time. Only Rahab acted righteously, and was preserved, her and her family.

Our world is like Jericho. We are waiting for a fiery end according to 2 Peter 3:11-12. Like the citizens of Jericho, we all know that it is coming; but we simply refuse to act. But as with Rahab, there is a place where we are promised security if we do not leave – the church that Jesus built. It is that room with a red cord that promises safety to those who remain in it. God will preserve today those who believe in the Lord – Romans 10:10 and act on that belief – Acts 22:16.

The Testimony of Rahab is this: salvation is for the few who act, and our righteous behavior now is greater than our past