
THE ASHLAND
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN 2009

“Note Those Who So Walk”

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

“Note Those Who So Walk”

Rahab – Seeing God’s Providence

Text: Joshua 2:1-24

Key Text: Joshua 2:5-6, “*And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.*’ (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)”

Introduction:

- 1) Rahab, while a harlot, is recorded as an example of great faith:
 - a) Hebrews 11:31.
 - b) James 2:25-26.
- 2) Yet, the Bible records she was a harlot and a liar (Joshua 2:1, 5-6).
- 3) How do we reconcile this seeming contradiction:
 - a) Some have used this example as a means to justify situation ethics but this is not right in light of Romans 3:8.
 - b) Some have explained by showing this account is from the Old Testament and was tolerable then. However, both harlotry and lying were wrong under the Old Law as well (Leviticus 19:11, 29).
 - c) How then is this explained?

I. **The lie.**

A. Joshua sends two young men (see Joshua 6:23) to spy out the land of Jericho. They do so and stay with Rahab, the Harlot (2:1). Why do they stay with Rahab?

1. Perhaps, men going into this home would not arouse suspicion.

2. Since this house was on the wall (Joshua 2:15), there would be an ease of escape.
3. Perhaps it was God’s providence in reference to Rahab.
4. Perhaps, the men were searching for carnal relations.
- B. The king was searching for the two spies and demands Rahab bring them out of hiding (2:2-3).
- C. She told part of the truth in that she agreed they came to her (2:4-5).
- D. She lied saying they had left when she hid them in the stalks of flax on the roof (2:6).

II. **The lesson.**

- A. Based on evidence (faith – Hebrews 11:1), Rahab knew the spies were from God (2:9-11).
- B. She then asked the men to protect her family (2:12-14).
- C. She helped the spies to escape (2:15-21).
- D. The spies reported that God had given them the land (2:22-24).

Conclusion:

- 1) Rahab was commended for her faith, not her lie or lifestyle (it was not about what she was but about what she was to become).
 - a) Hebrews 11:31.
 - b) James 2:25.
 - c) Joshua 2:9.
 - i) Her faith was based on evidence: Joshua 2:10 (see Hebrews 11:1).
 - ii) Her faith moved her to action: Joshua 2:12 (see James 2:17, 26).
 - iii) Her faith was rewarded — she was the great, great grandmother of David and in the lineage of Christ: Ruth 4:22-23 (see Matthew 1:5).
- 2) The fact that her flaws and shortcomings are revealed (as well as her previous lifestyle) is consistent with scripture.
 - a) Peter was withstood to his face (Galatians 2:11) and denied our Savior (Luke 22:54-62).
 - b) David is recorded to be a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22) yet committed adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11).
 - c) Paul never forgot his former life (Acts 22:4).
 - d) Aside from the Lord, what man recorded in the Bible does not have great acts as well as shortcomings recorded?
 - e) The people of the Bible (great people of faith and heathens alike) were human like you and me.