

RAHAB: FAITH OF AN OUTSIDER (SEPT. 27TH)

THE COMMUNITY

Memorize Joshua 1:9 – *“This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

1. What do you like best about fall?
2. While you worshiped at Coastal this week, what touched your heart thru the message or music? What engaged you and got your attention? What challenged your thinking or what did you wonder about?

THE BIBLE (*Websites - biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org, biblos.com, ccel.org*)

3. Read Joshua 2:1-24 this week. Use the websites above to read it in different versions. What observations do you have? What words or phrases stand out to you?
4. Why is it important that we see ourselves as “outsiders adopted by grace” as we approach the task of being the church in our communities and the world?

SERMON NOTES

Key Verses

...for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below

Joshua 2:11

By faith the prostitute, Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

Hebrews 11:31

Comments

Examples of saving faith are sprinkled throughout the Old Testament as road signs pointing forward to the era of Gospel proclamation and kingdom expansion. We are told in Romans chapter 4 that all of us who look back to the cross and come to faith in Christ are “descendants” of Abraham. Abraham, in the gospel plan, became the progenitor of the Jewish people as well as a prototype of saving faith.

Rahab is also presented to us as an example of saving faith. But Rahab, appearing much later in the biblical storyline, is a gentile and follower of a religious cult who practiced ritual prostitution and infant sacrifice. Hers is the story of one we might consider a spiritual and moral outsider. Yet, her repentance and faith landed her as an adopted member of God’s covenant people and a place in the genealogy of Christ as recorded by Matthew’s gospel. Rahab stands on the page of scripture as a constant reminder that by nature we are all outsiders and that by grace anyone can become an insider, a trophy of grace.

Consider the following ways that Rahab’s experience parallels that of all who truly come to Christ in repentance and faith:

1. (2:1-9) Rahab's faith was graciously kindled by God. She had heard of God's work through His people God brought the spies to her door
2. (2:9-11) Rahab's faith was accompanied by repentance. She had a holy awe and a desire to break with her past!
3. (2:14-15) Rahab's faith led to profession and action. Real faith leads to both!
4. (2:17-21) Rahab's faith resulted in deliverance from judgment and a new identity. (See also Matthew 1:5)

Big Idea

Her story is our story and her need is our calling!

SMALL GROUP PRIMER

Small Groups are a place where, in authentic community, we can honestly discuss how God's word intersects with our daily lives.

- Read Joshua 2.
- Why is it important that we see ourselves as "outsiders adopted by grace" as we approach the task of being the church in our communities and the world?
- How has your own faith story included "Holy awe" and "a break with your past" (repentance)?
- Next week's passage: Joshua 3-4

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