

## *Faith in Action*

### *Part 11*

***“By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.” (Hebrews 11:31)***

Joshua and the Israelites when they took Jericho they devoted the entire city to the Lord and they killed everyone small or big, man and animal except Rahab the prostitute and her household. What is the story of Rahab the prostitute and what she did that credited to her as righteousness? Why she and her household was spared from being killed with the rest of the people of Jericho? Her life and story was put in the bible to inspire us to walk in faith and obedience unto God

The book of James speaks about the faith and the action of Rahab the prostitute that was considered to her as righteousness: ***“In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?” (James 2:25)***

Let us read ***Joshua 2:1-24*** to know the full account of what Rahab the prostitute did and accomplished to God and for the people of God: ***“1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. 2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look! Some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land." 4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut. 8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. 12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death." 14 "Our lives for your lives!" the men assured her. "If you don't tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land." 15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. 16 Now she had said to them, "Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three***

***days until they return, and then go on your way." 17 The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us 18 unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. 19 If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible. As for anyone who is in the house with you, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear." 21 "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window. 22 When they left, they went into the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers had searched all along the road and returned without finding them. 23 Then the two men started back. They went down out of the hills, forded the river and came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. 24 They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us." (Joshua 2:1-24)***

Rahab the prostitute did the following:

***1- She welcomed the spies:*** That mean she welcomed their mission and agreed with them, and agreed with Joshua who sent them, and agreed with God who gave them the land. Jesus said, ***“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” (Matthew 10:40)***

***2- She repented of her sins:*** Rahab knew that the God of heaven will not approve sin but will welcome sinners who repented. That was expressed when she welcomed the spies. She expressed her repentance when she told the spies the following: ***“9 I know that the LORD has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10 We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” (Joshua 2:9-11)***

***3- She pleaded for her life:*** ***“12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign 13 that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death.” (Joshua 2:12-13)*** In this way she expressed to be part of them in God’s kingdom, willing to live in holiness as the word of God declares, ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2Corinthians 5:17)***

***4- She pleaded for the life of her family:*** She worked to impart the same faith to her household. Like the jailer whom he and his household received salvation, when he pleaded with Paul for his life: ***“30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household.” (Acts 16:30-31)***

**5- She gave them lodging and she protected them from the enemies:** Jesus said, **“11 Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. 12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. 15 I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.”** (Matthew 10: 11-15) Rahab expressed her faith in action by showing hospitality and willingness to spend and feed the spies, **“14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”** (James 2:14-17) Therefore, **“24 You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”** (James 2:24-26)

**6- She agreed and applied with faith the instruction the spies instructed her in order to receive what she was promised with:** **“17 The men said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us 18 unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house. 19 If anyone goes outside your house into the street, his blood will be on his own head; we will not be responsible. As for anyone who is in the house with you, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 But if you tell what we are doing, we will be released from the oath you made us swear." 21 "Agreed," she replied. "Let it be as you say." So she sent them away and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.”** (Joshua 2:17-21) She was sure of the promises of God and she expressed that with her immediate and full obedience.

**7- She imparted faith to the Israelites and to us today:** With her action and the encouraging word that she spoke to the spies assured them and the rest of the army that the Lord had given them the city. The spies reported the following to Joshua: **“They said to Joshua, "The LORD has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us.”** (Joshua 2:24)

**8- She was not killed because she was obedient to God rather than to men:** Rahab was willing to take the risk and disobeyed the command of the king of the land in order to hide the spies, She was willing to be even persecuted and willing to pay the cost in obedience to God, the same of what the apostle did, **“Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”** (Acts 5:29) Believing in Jesus but without serving him and taking the risk and giving the commitment to God, to His word, to His church and to His work is not the true faith. Faith should be accompanied by good deeds. The question that is directed to you is this: What you had achieved to God till now? Rahab was truly rewarded for her repentance and good deeds: The spies came to Joshua son of Nun and told him everything that had happened to them. Therefore at

Jericho battle Joshua instructed the soldier with the following: **“17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.”** (Joshua 6:17) And when Jericho wall fell down, **“22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her." 23 So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.”** (Joshua 6:22-23)

**9- Rahab faith and action rewarded further:** She was integrated with the people of God, the church. She became the mother of Boaz, who is in the genealogy of David as we can read: **“5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,”** (Matthew 1:5-6)

**My Dear and Beloved:** Repentance, faith, commitment and deeds all integrated in the life of Rahab; the very thing that you can learn and apply in your life, as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I commit my life to serve you and open my life for you and your people. Lord I put my faith into action and I am willing to do whatever you put ahead of me to do in order that your word will reach the lost. Even Lord I ask you the salvation of my family and household. Lord I am inspired by your word and the life of Rahab how you used her mightily. Lord take me and use me in the way that you ordained for me so that my life will bring you the fruit that you desire to see. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

# Jesus christ



## The Bread Of Life

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**“Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!”**

(Luke 1:45)

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