

Preparation for Godly Marriage

Part 11

The Marriage of Rahab

“3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,” (Matthew 1:3-5)

Rahab in her previous life before she came to the true God she was living and working as a prostitute. The New Testament speaks about her in regard to her stand in giving lodging to the spies that was sent by Joshua to spy out the city of Jericho, ***“31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.” (Hebrews 11:31) “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?” (James 2:25)***

Rahab’s repentance you can trace it more clearly if you go and read the book of Joshua, you can find out that Rahab gave lodging to the spies, hid them from the men of the king of Jericho, ***“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, they 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.” (Joshua 2:1-7) Rahab had heard the good news about the Lord and she also expressed to the spies her faith and her trust in the only true God our Lord, “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 you this land 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 in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” (Joshua 2:8-11)***

Part of Rahab repentance was her plead for her family to be saved, ***“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) She had asked for her family members, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters to be saved. The spies assured her about her request, “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 She 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 Now the men had 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 any of them go outside your house into the street, their blood will be on their own heads; we will not be responsible. As for those who are in the house with you, their blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on them. 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 2:14-21)

Rahab did not plead for the life of her boyfriends and those men who attended her in her business to be saved; that is another sign of her repentance and another sign that shows her true conversion. Rahab was not married and she knew that to come to the true God and to be with His people then she need to depart from any illicit extramarital relationship. Many who come to Christ, they speak about their old boyfriend or their old girl friend. Boyfriend and girl friend is extramarital relationship and is immoralities. The Word of God tells us the following, ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new has come.” (2Corinthians 5:17) God had a good plan for Rahab and God has good plans for those who come to Christ and He wants them to live the new plans that He has for them. Rahab forgot her old life and decided to live her new life for God therefore she decided to leave her old life, her relationship with other men and even her profession.***

The example of Rahab is applicable to the life of the church today. Many they come to the Lord Jesus Christ and in that decision and as part of their repentance they need to leave the old life in pertain to the boy friend and girl friend relationship and the rest of the extramarital affairs. The spies impressed on Rahab to do the very thing, ***“17 Now the men had 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.” (Joshua 2:17-18) The spies they give her permission to bring in her house only her father household, “18 Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father’s household, home unto thee.” (Joshua 1:18) The church should restrict the new convert in regard to this matter because God had new plan for the new believers in Christ and He nullify their old previous extramarital affairs.***

Rahab she wanted all her family to be saved, therefore she needed to be bound with her commitment so that the salvation of God will flow in the life of her family. Simply, Rahab will neither be able to be accepted by the people of God, nor to introduce the holiness of God into the life of her family unless she would get rid of her old extramarital affairs and the prostitution business. For sure she immediately went ahead and cleansed her life and house from things unpleasant to God, and she brought all her kindred into her house to bring them to God.

The city of Jericho after its wall collapsed, everything in that city was destroyed and devoted to God, “22 *But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her. 23 And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel. 24 And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. 25 And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*” (Joshua 6:22-25)

Rahab did not put in her mind the fear of losing the old relationships with other men, and she did not request the spies if they can arrange for her to have a husband and family. You should not be afraid to leave the old life and the old relationships, trusting God that he has a good plan for you. Paul said to the Corinthians, “ *2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.*” (2Corinthians 11:2) Living for Christ should be the motive and the purpose of coming to God and as you obey a reward from God waiting for you. As you can read here, Rahab was rewarded and integrated into the people of God and given a family, “*3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,*” (Matthew 1:3-5) The husband of Rahab was Salmon the son of Nahshon who was the leader of the tribe of Judah in the wilderness, and Salman was in that post of honour when they entered into Canaan, “*10 Ram was the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, the leader of the people of Judah. 11 Nahshon was the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz,*” (1Chronicles 2: 10-11) God rewarded Rahab and rewarded His church with that marriage where the fruit of that marriage was, “*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: The Lord has always a good plan for you and for His church. This plan will be unfold and will come true only when His church and you be willing to fully obey Him and do His will in following the principles of His Word 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 thank you for your clear word to me. I humble myself before you and before your command. Lord I commit myself to fully obey you and the principles of your word in the bible, trusting that you have a good plan for me and for your church. Lord as I trust you and obey you, then I know that you will reward me. Give me Lord the strength and the perseverance in doing that. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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