

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Always Faithful to Those Who Trust

Joshua 1-6

INTRODUCTION: Good morning dear church family. I am visualizing you.

I am longing to be in your physical presence, seeing you, hearing you.

That day is coming! Don't know when.

One thing we are doing – re-arranging to allow for social distancing when we re-gather.

And we are trying to stay in contact with you as much as possible during this time.

I am adding a place at the end of my daily blog to send me an email.

Welcome guests, thank you for letting us come into your home this morning.

I am grateful the Lord led me to start this series FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD. It is what we need now, not knowing what each day will bring.

I want to tell you a story today from God's Word of a woman who had no reason to expect the faithfulness of the Almighty to fall upon her or her family.

- Resident of oldest walled city ever discovered, thick enough for housing – “City of Palms”; temperate climate, spring 30k ft³/day, rich soil surrounding
- Inside – hideous atrocities of paganism, demon worship, children offered
- Residents had opportunity to know God – descendants of Noah; Abraham lived nearby; messages had arrived that the God of Abraham and Noah had freed slaves from Egypt, parted waters, protected them 40 yrs in desert, overcome armies
- King believed enough to dread the approach of these descendants of slaves, believed enough to lock the gates, but not enough to repent and trust in the God who obviously cared so thoroughly for them.

And this woman who discovered the remarkable faithfulness of God had something in common with all of us.

- **She and her family were in quarantine** – not in their house but within the city,
- **A quarantine designed to protect them from the threat outside.**
- She was a harlot. (No I do not think you are harlots.) We are all sinners.

The woman's name was Rahab, and she lived in the city of Jericho.

Approaching the city was the newly born nation of Israel, the family of Abraham, now become a mighty people (620,000), – made that way by the faithfulness of God.

And now, **the faithfulness God had shown to Abraham and Israel, He was about to show to Rahab.**

Joshua 2:1–19 NKJV 1 Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, “Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country.” 3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country.”

4 Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 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.”

6 (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.) 7 Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

8 Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men: “I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. 10 For 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 the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

11 And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. 12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”

14 So the men answered her, “Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.” 15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. ...

17 So the men said to her: “... when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and ... 19 whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.

Think about Rahab’s life with me for a few minutes to see all the way YHWH, the Lord God Almighty, was faithful to this woman.

BEFORE RAHAB BECAME A BELIEVER, GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO DRAW HER TO HIMSELF.

- **Rahab was a God-seeker** – others heard what YHWH had done for Israel, and were terrified. Rahab heard and revered YHWH by calling Him the God of Heaven above and earth below.
- **God has a special promise for God-seekers.**

Deuteronomy 4:29 NKJV But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

- God sent the spies – spies did no spy work!
- Their only work was to find Rahab, bring her to faith, and promise God’s protection.
- God drew me before I trusted Him; Parents, Ruth Ann, Mrs. Wright.
- You who are saved, remember God’s faithfulness to draw you to Himself; if you ever feel the Lord is far away, remember how He initiated your relationship.
- You who have not yet trusted the Lord; who has, who is, God providing, to help you come to Him and into His forever family – even this story of Rahab!

AFTER RAHAB TRUSTED THE LORD, GOD BROUGHT HER TO LIVE WITH HIS PEOPLE.

- **Rahab went from a God-seeker to a God-truster and a God-follower.**

12 Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”

- God tells us not to swear by Himself, which command Rahab would later learn. At the moment she was expressing that she knew YHWH was her only source of rescue and deliverance. She put her full confidence in Him and in no other. The essence of trusting the Lord, not trusting good works, religion, heritage, or your own homespun theology.
- Rahab's faith was demonstrated by action. Hid spies, Let them down with rope she found in her room, tied the rope to the window as told.
- When Israel conquered Jericho with blaring ram's horns and a shout, Rahab and family were spared and taken to live with the people of Israel.

Dear friend, **that is why God has been drawing you to Himself. He wants you to be saved and to be a part of the Forever Family of God.**

- Folks, God often shows Himself in the details. What color was the rope? Scarlet! For practical purposes, any color would do. But not for God. In providence – Scarlet! Crimson! – the one thing that would be the symbol of God's saving her, for her and others to remember forever. Why was it scarlet or crimson?
 - What color was the earth beneath the animal God slew to provide the skins to cover Adam and Eve after they sinned in the garden?
 - What color was Abel's sacrifice which was found to be acceptable to God?
 - What color was splattered upon the altar of Noah after he and his family were saved from the raging flood?
 - What color dripped from Abraham's knife after he slew the ram who substituted for his son on Mt. Moriah?
 - What color stained the doorposts and lintels of the Hebrew children that protected their families from the Angel of Death who passed over all of Egypt?
 - What color was renewed day after day on the altar of burnt offerings in the courtyard of the tabernacle?
 - What color was sprinkled upon the Mercy Seat year after year on the Day of Atonement?
 - What color ran from the Master's brow when they pressed the crown of thorns upon Him?
 - What color ran down His back and legs as He endured the stripes that were meant for us?

- What color spewed from His hands and feet when they drove the spikes that impaled Him upon the cross?
- What color ran from His side, mixed now with water, as the soldier confirmed our Lord's sacrificial death upon the cross with his spear?

Scarlet! Crimson! God drew Rahab and then when she trusted He saved her with a scarlet cord hung in the window. If you will trust the Lord drawing you, He will save you by the crimson blood shed as He hung upon the cross.

THE LORD CONTINUED TO CARE FOR RAHAB THE REST OF HER LIFE AND BLESSED HER FAR BEYOND HER LIFE ON EARTH.

God spared Rahab and her family. Everyone else in the city died under the hand of God's fierce judgment, but believing Rahab was saved. She and her family moved into the camp with Israel. She put away her sinful past and received the forgiveness of her gracious God.

- After a while a Hebrew man named Salmon took Rahab to be his wife. They had a son named Boaz.
- Boaz knew that God's love and redemption was not just for the physical descendants of Abraham, and he took a distressed widow who was herself a Moabitess to be his wife. Her name was Ruth. Their son was named Obed.
- His son was called Jesse.
- And one of Jesse's sons was David, the wonderful Shepherd-King of Israel.
- And the legal and physical ancestor of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

God not only saved Rahab, He put her in the messianic line as one of the ancestors of the One who would fulfill the Abrahamic covenant and purchase salvation for her and for everyone who would ever live upon the earth, who like herself would simply believe and trust in the Lord.

CONCLUSION: Oh my friend, wouldn't you like to put your trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, believing He shed His crimson blood for you and rose from the dead. Wouldn't you like for God's drawing you to Himself to bear the fruit of faith today as you trust in Christ and become a part of the family of God forever? Then pray with me.

If you prayed that prayer with me, we have a book called **MY NEW LIFE** we want to send to you. It is a helpful guide for new believers. Just **text the word "trust" to 850-381-0041**. It is our free gift to you.

For all of us who have trusted the Lord. Let us remember how God has done these very things He did for Rahab in our own lives.

- Drawing us to faith in Christ.
- Bringing us to salvation and making us part of God's family of faith.
- Caring for us throughout our lives and knowing the glorious provision He has made for us even beyond our lives.

If things get tough this week, remember all of this about the faithfulness of God.

FEAST ON HIS FAITHFULNESS.