

“Rahab the Prostitute” Joshua 2:1-21

1. Joshua had been 1 of the 12 spies who had explored the Promised Land (Numbers 13-14). Looming in the path the invaders must take was the walled city of Jericho. But before attacking it, Joshua needed more information about this fortress city. What does Joshua do to collect this prewar intel (Joshua 2:1)?
2. As God often does, He moves in a mysterious way and He providentially brings together two secret agents of the army of Israel and a woman of Canaan who would become a proselyte to the God of Israel. Why would Rahab be considered an “outsider” (see also Hebrews 11:30-31 & James 2:25)?

How does this incident speak to God’s mercy and grace?

3. Evidently the disguises of the spies didn’t work because someone detects these secret agents, follows them to Rahab’s house, and then quickly returns to report this to the king. The king sends word to Rahab—what does he say (v.3)?
4. Rahab hid the spies beneath the stalks of flax which had been placed on her flat roof for drying. She admits to the king’s messengers that the two strangers had come to her house (v.4), but what does she say then happened (v.5)?

What do the king’s messengers do in response to Rahab’s reply (v.7)?

5. Was Rahab wrong to lie since it protected the spies?
Are there some situations in which a lie is acceptable?
6. To excuse Rahab is to condone what God condemns. Rahab’s lie was recorded but not approved or celebrated. Hebrews 11:31 approves her faith demonstrated by good works, but not her falsehood. What does Rahab do next (v.8)?
7. Rahab has this extraordinary conversation with the spies in the darkness on the roof of her home. What does this Canaanite woman first disclose about the God of Israel (v.9)?

2nd, Rahab reveals that the people of Jericho and the rest of Canaan were utterly demoralized. Why had their courage failed (vv.10-11)? What does Rahab say in verse 11 to declare her faith in Israel’s God?
8. Rahab seeks a covenantal agreement with the spies based on God’s loyal love (*hesed*). What is her request (vv.12-13)? The spies confirm the pact with Rahab by what conditions must Rahab abide by (vv.17-20)?
9. After Rahab sends the spies away, what does she immediately do to confirm her part of the covenant? What does this action symbolize?