

## THE FAITH THAT SAVES (PART 2)

James 2 & Joshua 2

It is reported that with our economy in recession there have been many counterfeit dollar bills floating around. These fake bills are being passed for the real ones, until they are discovered and destroyed. They are not genuine, though for a while they appear to be. In a way, this parallels saving faith...

Last week we discovered that the faith that saves produces work. It does this because it is alive. Abraham displayed his faith by obeying the Lord in offering his son Isaac. His faith was not the counterfeit kind.

Pastor James offers a second example illustrating his point; faith alone saves, but a faith that is alone does not save. "For a workless faith is a worthless faith!" James now points to Rahab, the redeemed prostitute.

**FIVE WAYS THAT WE AS GENUINE CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE RAHAB.** ...Her faith was seen when she hid the spies. Dangerous! At times, our obedience will put us at odds with...

### I. Both Of Us Are Sinners. (James 2:25) (Joshua 2:1)

- A. In the first verse introducing us to her we discover that she is immoral. She is a prostitute.
  - 1. She lived in Jericho at the time the Israelites were about to enter the promised land.
  - 2. Her home seems to be a place used for sexual immorality.
  - 3. She is known in Scripture as "Rahab the Harlot." Be careful how you live, especially when young, as you may never outgrow your reputation.
- B. Everyone of us are born sinners, and sin, because that is what sinners do.
  - 1. We have all prostituted ourselves before the Lord God. We have all been unfaithful to Him. Spiritually, we are harlots.
  - 2. Perhaps Rahab's sin is more easily seen than ours, but don't fool yourself. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

### II. Both Of Us Were Found And Delivered From Destruction. (Joshua 2:1,6:25)

- A. God's sweet providence leads the 2 spies to Rahab. Why Rahab? The Lord had regenerated her pagan heart. She, a sinful woman living in a evil place, was found by the Lord.
  - 1. She was not beyond God's saving power.
  - 2. She is found and delivered from the death and destruction that came to her city.
- B. God's wonderful mercy has visited you, if you know Christ the Lord as Savior. He has found you and delivered you from "the wrath to come." Wow! Praise be to God alone.

**III. Both Of Us Are Found Living Out Our Faith Amid A Godless Community.**

- A. Rahab hid the spies at great personal danger. She evidence true saving faith by putting everything on the line for the Lord, trusting it to Him without qualification or reservation.
  - 1. She lied concerning the whereabouts of the spies. Wrong! Alot of Canaan still in her.
  - 2. She did not leave with the spies, but continued to live among her godless neighbors.  
The place she once called home had lost its meaning to her. The king is her enemy.
- B. For us it is the same. When salvation finds us we discover that this old world does not have the same meaning as it did. We become “citizens of heaven,” longing to be home with the Lord. We find that we now have enemies and at times living for Jesus puts us at odds with the culture. The king we once served, has become our enemy. (Satan) We live in “vanity fair,” but look for a city, whose designer and maker is God Himself. (Hebrews 11:10) We are now pilgrims and...

**IV. Both Of Us Were Not Born Into Families Of Privilege.**

- A. Rahab was not an Israelite. She was a cursed Canaanite. Born: “wrong side of the tracks!”
  - 1. Humanly speaking, she stood far away from even hearing of the one and true God.
  - 2. Yet, God opened her heart causing her to believe in Him. (Joshua 2:8-11)
  - 3. Further more, God in His grace, had Rahab become part of Jesus’ lineage. (Matt 1:5)
- B. Most of us are not Jewish, but gentiles by birth. Yet if God has saved you He has “grafted you into His family.” (Romans 11:17-21) We have been made “children of the King by grace.” Wow!

**V. Both Of Us Must Invite Others “Come In” To Find Safety From Destruction. 13**

- A. Rahab saved her family from God’s judgment. (Joshua 6:20-23) They found safety in her home. They alone were saved. She compelled them to come in. All the rest perished.
- B. We too are to invite others to Jesus. He alone is the place of safety. We must: share, care, and pray. This is our mission as God’s coming judgment draws near.

**LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**

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