



THURSDAY 04.22.10

Matthew 1:1-6

It was a common practice to begin the story of a great man by first celebrating his magnificent lineage. Matthew follows this pattern in the opening words of his Gospel and includes several “impressive” names. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David were all “heroes” of Israel, but Matthew also departs from common practice by identifying several women including the prostitute Rahab. Why do you think Matthew chooses to include Rahab’s name? What does this say about the faith of this woman?

- Rahab’s simple act of faith provided her the opportunity to participate in something that God was going to do generations beyond her death. Psalm 78 says that “What we have heard and known . . . we will tell the next generation . . . so the next generation would know him.” During your devotional time today, would you pray for the hundreds of children that God has entrusted to our church?



FRIDAY 04.23.10

Hebrews 11:31; James 2:20-26

The 11th chapter of Hebrews is sometimes referred to as the “Hall of Fame of Faith.” In this chapter, the writer of Hebrews celebrates the acts of obedience of many of the Old Testament characters we find in the Bible including Rahab. James connects with this theme in his writings as he reminds his readers of the connection between “faith” and “works.”

- You may be familiar with the quote that “Trust is not something that you feel. Trust is something that you do.” What are some of the ways that you have put your trust in God into action? What was the result of those acts?
- If you have already made a commitment to follow Christ, what are three things you intentionally do differently today because of your faith? What are the next three changes God might be calling you to make in your life?



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Series: *UNRated*
Sermon: *Lady of the Night Survives Jericho’s Fall*
Scripture: *Joshua 2:1-24*

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon:



Introduction

Moses had led the people of God to the very edge of the land God has promised to them. The task would fall to Joshua to finally lead the people into the land that was described as “flowing with milk and honey.” Yet, before they can take ownership of that land, this nation must depend on the courage and hospitality of a woman who many in her own society considered to be lacking in value.

Rahab was a woman who offered herself to others in order to make ends meet. Sadly, for many women in that day, this was their only avenue for survival. But at this most critical moment, when the people of God stand ready to take on the forces of Jericho, Rahab acts with incredible conviction. Rather than submitting herself to the demands of the king, she places herself at risk to protect the spies from the Lord’s army.

As you read Rahab’s story this week, may this prayer guide you.

Lord, we confess to you that we are often tempted to allow someone else to define our lives, and we are too quick to judge others for what we might perceive them to be. Remind us this week that you see us not for who we are but for who we might be. Give us the courage to trust in the identity that you have given to each of us as your children and the determination to help each other discover the potential you see in each one of us.



TUESDAY 04.20.10

Joshua 2:8-21

In today’s text, the motivation that had inspired Rahab’s act of heroism is revealed. It was her “hearing” of the mighty acts of the Lord that had convinced Rahab to conspire with these spies. Rahab makes the decision to defer to that which she believes to be more powerful and mighty than herself.

- At this point in the story, it is difficult to surmise what exactly Rahab believes about the God of these spies beyond the fact that this is a God to be feared. To help us understand this fear, we might also use words like respect or revere. Proverbs 9:10 says that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” What do you think that means? Do you think fear should play a part in our relationship with God?
- Have you considered what is more powerful than you in your life?



MONDAY 04.19.10

Joshua 2:1-7

Our introduction to Rahab happens in the second chapter of Joshua. As the spies make preparations for the battle of Jericho, they meet Rahab. Before we learn her name, the writer of Joshua reveals Rahab’s vocation. Perhaps this is the writer’s subtle way of saying that sometimes we see people not as who they are but what they might do for us. Rahab survived by being used, but in this time of adversity, she risks her own life to protect the spies sent by Joshua.

- It’s easy to fall into the trap of “defining” your life around what you do rather than who you are. How might you respond to the question “Who are you?”
- Rahab shows incredible courage in defying the king of Jericho. Where does courage come from? Does it simply show up or is it developed? What practices have cultivated courage in your life?



WEDNESDAY 04.21.10

Joshua 3:1-8; 4:1-7

For 40 years the Israelites had wandered in the desert preparing for this moment. They had actually arrived at the edge of the promised land before, but their fear of the inhabitants of the land had kept them from taking this critical step. On this long awaited day, God instructs the people to collect stones in order to remember this day for generations to come.

- In chapter 3, the officers of the Israelites share God’s instructions for the people to follow the ark of the covenant. This tangible sign of God’s presence was meant to lead the people into the land of promise. What does “following the ark” look like in your life? How does the act of “looking back” help you to “move ahead?”
- If you were to mark the five most significant moments in your spiritual journey, what would they be?
