

# *This time... I will live by faith*

**#6 Rahab (Joshua 2:1-24, 6:20-23, Matt. 1:5, Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25)**

## **I. Background Material**

### A. Rahab

1. Her name means “insolence” or “fierceness”
2. She is an Amorite (one of the seven nations Israel cleared out of Canaan – see Gen. 15:16)
3. She was a prostitute. She lived apart from the extended family. Perhaps she was treated as a moral leper. Both Paul (Heb. 11:31) and James (James 2:25) refer to her as “Rahab the Harlot.”
4. She married Salmon – a prince from the tribe of Judah. Notice her place in the lineage of Jesus (Matt. 1:5).
5. Her house was built against the wall surrounding Jericho. It was readily accessible to all kinds of visitors.

“There were two walls around the city of Jericho with a gap between them, some 12-15 feet in width. Planking was laid on top of these two walls covering the gap. Houses were often built on that planking. Thus Rahab’s window looked out from the outer wall.” (Interpreter’s Bible, Vol. 2, p. 561)

### B. The spies in Jericho

1. Camped along the eastern edge of the Jordan Valley. Opposite Jericho, Joshua sends in two spies.
2. The spies end up staying at Rahab’s inn.
3. Their presence is reported to the Canaanite “King” of Jericho.
4. Rahab lies about their leaving and hides them on the roof under the stalks of flax.
  - a. Roof: an integral part of the Jewish home. It was a cool retreat for the family.
  - b. Flax: grows 2-3 feet high, are dried and cut then stripped. Linen is made from flax.
5. Rahab’s conversation with the spies
  - a. vs. 8: She conceals them under the flax
  - b. vs. 9-10: She refers to the fear men have of the Israelites (see Deut. 2:25, 11:25)
  - c. vs. 11: Her confession of faith

- d. vs. 12 – 16: Her deal. She is expecting an oath and a sign.
- e. vs. 17 – 21: The conditions: “kindness” Hessed a reciprocal kind of love. Note the impact on her family.
  - 1. There were three conditions to the agreement with the spies
    - a. Scarlett cord in the window (In the Law: Lev. 17:11;| a veiled reference to the blood at Passover : Ex. 12:21-23; at the cross: Heb. 9:12).
    - b. Whole family needed to be in Rahab’s house
    - c. The covenant must be kept secret (she was betraying her own people).
- f. vs. 22 – 24: Their escape and report. (Note the fulfillment of the promises made in 1:5 and 1:9).

**II. So what?** Rahab had a decision to make. And, this time she chose to live by faith.

In light of great pressure, she had to trust the spies (and ultimately Joshua) with the lives of her family and herself. Remember: she is only one of two women (Sarah being the other) designated as an example of faith in Hebrews 11.

In light of great pressure, what would you trust the Lord for?

Remember:

A. Trust is an all or nothing exercise

**The object:** Obey Him!

Isaiah 26:4 “Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”

**The commitment:** All of your heart!

Prov. 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

B. Special commitments have been made to those who trust (fully) in the Lord.

1. Peace

Isa. 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”

2. “Good things”

Ps. 31:19 “How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.”

3. Needs met

Ps. 37:3 “Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.”

4. Strength

Isa. 26:4 “Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.”

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Rahab's decision and commitment by faith so difficult? What was at stake?
2. If you fully trust in the Lord, what is at stake? Is it worth it?