

Rahab: Guardian of the Home

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Titus 2:5 commands the older women in the congregation to teach the younger women to be workers at home. The Greek word used implies the idea of one who is a guard of the home. Such guardianship is important when we live in a world that has many times attempted to assault the home. In the Scriptures one of the most impressive guardians of the home was Rahab, a woman of faith.

Rahab's story is found in Joshua 2. There we meet her as a harlot in Jericho. When two spies come to her, she hides them from the king of Jericho in exchange for a promise: that they will deliver her from the destruction she sees coming. Rahab has not been privy to a prophecy of any sort; instead she has come to believe that Jehovah is the One True God, and that wherever His people go there will be success. God honors this compact in Joshua 6, where the destruction of Jericho is manifested. She saves herself and all of her family along with her home by her faith. There are five things worth considering in Rahab.

1. **Her Faith by Her Works.** Hebrews 11:31 addresses her faith as being a working faith. It was her hospitality which saved her, along with her obedience in the command given to her (to show the scarlet cord). Her faith was dangerously visible, and yet she held firm to the end.

2. **Her Past Did Not Hold Her Back.** James 2:25 also commends us to Rahab's faith by telling us that she acted to save herself and her family. But we must consider that her life story – being a Canaanite, a cursed people, and being a prostitute, a deplorable profession – did not cause her to doubt her worth to be saved. She did not declare that these things were obstacles too large to overcome. Instead, she saw opportunity and seized it.

3. **She Was An Evangelist.** 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to be ready to give an answer for our hope. What hope was there for a Canaanite prostitute before God? Not only did she believe that Jericho was doomed, but that her home might not be. What is the Gospel? First it is bad news; it warns us of the ultimate destruction coming to all men. Yet then it is the good news of a plan to be saved. Rahab had a plan, and taught it to all of her family. When the day came, they were all saved.

4. **She Was an Ancestor of Jesus.** Matthew 1:1-7 lists the royal genealogy of Jesus up to king David. It is interesting that only a few women are mentioned there. One of Jesus' ancestors (Mat. 1:5) was Rahab. Not only did she remain with Israel, but was brought into that seed promise, one of the greatest honors in history.

5. **Her Home Was The Church.** Ephesians 3:11 tells us that the church was God's eternal purpose. It was foreshadowed in many places in Scripture; it was seen in the ark of Noah and in the Passover home. It is also seen here in Rahab's house. It is a place of guaranteed safety in a world that is promised to be destroyed. There is one door to enter it (Baptism – Acts 2:38-47). If we leave it before the coming of our Joshua, we will be lost. Finally, the scarlet cord that is the blood of Christ is the proof of our salvation.

Rahab is one of the most important people of faith in the Old Testament. She saved herself and her household by this faith. Her home is like the church that Jesus built, and we are reminded to remain within it until the promised destruction comes.