

# Pleasing God Through Faith

## *Lessons for Ladies*

### Lesson Eleven

### Rahab's Faith

Scripture: Hebrews 11:30-31 - *"By faith the harlot Rahab perished not withy them that believed not. . ."*

Additional references: Joshua 2; 6:17, 23-25; Matthew 1

**INTRODUCTION:** Rahab proves once again that God is no respecter of persons. It does not matter what your past has been, who you know, how much you are worth, or how many good deeds you have done. God forgives and forgets. He promises to save any and all who seek Him. (John 3:16) Rahab is one of only 4 women mentioned in the genealogy of Christ.

#### I RAHAB, THE HARLOT

##### A. Labeled for life

Rahab is known throughout the Bible as Rahab, the harlot (prostitute). By the time the spies from Joshua met her, she had long since given up her previous occupation, but was still referred to as Rahab, the harlot. How terrible to have a constant reminder of our past sins. If she was still practicing her sinful ways, the men of Jericho would not have come in asking about the men who went to her house. They would have ignored the fact that men were going in and out of her house, because it would have been considered an everyday occurrence. Though the men sent from Joshua did not know her in her harlot days, they still referred to her as Rahab, the harlot. How will you be remembered years after you are gone?

##### B. Rising above a bad past

So many women today are defeated because of a bad past. There is no reason to give up on life because of a sinful past. We know PERSONALLY the King of kings and He can give victory over sin, death, hell, and the grave. We waste time fretting when we have not even tried to turn our burdens over to Christ. Rahab knew the references made about her. She had turned her life around. She had heard of the miracles of the one true and living God and believe on the power He had. She, and her entire city, knew that defeat was coming and feared a confrontation with God's people. Rahab, took in these men and hid them from the men of Jericho. She knew they were there to spy out their city, but still helped them. In learning about the true God, she also learned of His love and mercy. So, she asks the men to spare, not only herself, but her entire family from the destruction coming.

##### C. Faith to do the impossible

Rahab was told to do two things that are nearly impossible for a woman to

do - 1) *keep a secret* and 2) *mind her own business during the attacks*. She could not tell anyone that the two men had been there and what their intention was, nor was she or her family members allowed to step foot out of her house until the city was completely taken. WOW, what a huge request! But she agreed, for if she did not it was certain death for her family and herself. Many times we are called upon to use discretion in our actions or our words. Nature wants to tell all we know and prove that we know more about a matter than the next person. Discretion does NOT tell all. It is our faith in our Lord that gives us the strength to do what is right even in matters such as this.

D. Obedience immediately

When it is finally safe for the two spies to leave, they give her instructions what to do after they leave. Of course she is to tell no one of their business and is to bring in her family to her house. They told her to let down a red cord through the same window that she had let the spies out. Her house was on the wall of the city, so the cord would be seen easily. As soon as the spies left, she let the red cord out of the window. There was no hesitation, nor questioning. Salvation is to be accepted immediately. It is not to be put off, for we know not what a day may bring forth. There is a "red cord" seen throughout the entire Bible, it is the blood of Christ. Salvation is only through faith in the shed blood of the Saviour.

## II RAHAB, THE WIFE

Rahab did exactly as she was told. When Joshua was giving the instructions from God concerning the defeat of Jericho, he said that all were to be destroyed EXCEPT for Rahab, the harlot, and her family. Rahab was taken back with the Israelites and lived among them the rest of her life. She married a godly man named Salmon. She evidently became a godly Christian woman herself for she is one of only four women mentioned in the genealogy of Christ. Finally, in Matthew 1 she is mentioned as just Rachab (Rahab) without the stigma of "the harlot" attached to her name. She became known as Rahab, the wife of Salmon and the great-grandmother of King David.

### CONCLUSION:

It took great faith and courage for Rahab to face the men of Israel, hid them knowing they had come to destroy her city, ask them to spare her family, move with them as a stranger among them, and soak in all she could about becoming a godly woman. But she did it! Rahab was able to overcome her past sinful life but only by trusting in the one true and living God.