

Joshua 2 Rahab Shelters Spies

Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab, and rested there. 2 But it was told to the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men from the sons of Israel have come here tonight to spy out the land."

3 And the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to spy out all the land." 4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them, and she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."

5 It came about, when it was time to shut the gate at dark, that the men went out; I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." 6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them in the stalks of flax which she had laid in order on the roof. 7 So the men pursued them on the road to the Jordan, to the crossing places; and as soon as those who were pursuing them had gone out, they shut the gate.

8 Now before the spies lay down, she came up to them on the roof, 9 and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of you."

10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. 11 When we heard these reports, our hearts melted and no courage remained in anyone any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth below.

12 Now then, please swear to me by the LORD, since I have dealt kindly with you, that you also will deal kindly with my father's household, and give me a pledge of truth, 13 and spare my father and my mother, and my brothers and my sisters, and all who belong to them, and save our lives from death." 14 So the men said to her, "Our life for yours if you do not tell this business of ours; and it shall come about when the LORD gives us the land that we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

The Promise to Rahab

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall, so that she was living on the wall. 16 And she said to them, "Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not encounter you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way."

17 And the men said to her, “We shall be exempt from this oath to you which you have made us swear, 18 unless, when we come into the land, you tie this cord of scarlet thread in the window through which you let us down, and gather into your house your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father’s household.

19 And it shall come about that anyone who goes out of the doors of your house outside will have his blood on his own head, and we will be innocent; but anyone who is with you in the house, his blood will be on our head if a hand is laid on him. 20 But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be exempt from the oath which you have made us swear.”

21 She then said, “According to your words, so be it.” So, she sent them away, and they departed; and she tied the scarlet cord in the window.22 So they departed and came to the hill country, and remained there for three days, until the pursuers returned. Now the pursuers had searched for them all along the road, but had not found them.

23 Then the two men returned and came down from the hill country, and they crossed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun. Then they reported to him all that had happened to them. 24 And they said to Joshua
“The LORD has indeed handed over to us all the land; furthermore, all the inhabitants of the land have despaired because of us.”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God’s character

Paul’s observations and insights

1. Joshua's first major act of leadership is to lead the people across the Jordan into Jericho.
2. He would take them into the land that God had promised Abraham.
3. How would you have felt about this task, if it were your first major task?
4. The plan of the two spies, was to find shelter at the home of a prostitute - why a prostitute?
5. Who told the king of Jericho the two spies we're in the city, spying out the land, for Israel to attack?
6. Had they not been discreet in entering the city? Or were they just bad spies?
7. The king even knew that they had lodged at Rahab’s pad!

8. Why did she choose Israel over her own native people?
9. From Israel's perspective Rahab had become an ally, but from the Jericho's perspective she was a traitor!
10. Was Rahab a convincing liar? She revealed enough of the truth to the king to be convincing, but she did not reveal the whole truth!
11. Had the news about Israel's victories and their connection to God, won over her heart?
12. Is it ever appropriate to tell a lie?
13. Is Rahab brave? Or is she foolish in the hiding of the spies in the first place?
14. Her actions had averted the arrest of the two spies, but she had been instrumental in the destruction of the city and the lives of her people.
15. Rahab said she knew - was she the only one who knew? Had she the sense to align herself with the inevitable?
16. See how she says, 'we have heard the Lord destroyed Israel's enemies and dried up the waters to crossover'.
17. When your enemy hears the truth, they will lose their strength.
18. Rahab knows the God of Israel is the only true and living God, both of heaven and earth.
19. Rahab contracts with the spies - she sends her faith off to work by trusting the two spies to keep their promises.
20. What is 'a pledge of truth'.
21. In the bartering of the contract, she knows exactly what she wants from the spies!
22. She is not afraid to make her requests. How often do we pontificate our requests to God.
23. Rahab wants her life and the lives of her family to be spared, she is prepared to do anything to achieve this.
24. The two spies have some conditions of their own.
25. The two spies are completely confident that God will give Israel this land.
26. As a prostitute Rahab's home was vulnerable, it was built into the wall where the first attack would come.
27. Her actions saved the lives of the spies, and her plan enabled them to escape to safety.
28. All these actions were an expression of Rahab's faith being sent off to work.
29. The two spies require a sign of protection from Rahab.
30. There needs to be a place of safety, this would be at Rahab's home.
31. If anyone moves from the place of safety and are killed, they would be responsible for their own death.
32. But if death occurred inside the place of safety, then Israel would be held accountable!
33. Staying silent was another condition of the agreement that the spies added to the contract.

34. Why was this important - Rahab agreeing to the conditions of the contract?
35. Being aware as to where the lines are drawn in life is important – why?
36. Rahab's plan proved successful and the spies make it back to their camp in safety.
37. How will Joshua respond to the intelligence gained by the spies in Jericho?
38. How will he react to the agreement that the spies had made with the prostitute Rahab?
39. Joshua knows the fear of God will make all Israel's enemies weak.