

# **Joshua 2:1-11 – Foundation to Dominion: Factual Faith**

Calvin, TSK, JFB, Pulpit, Poole, Gill, Trapp, Henry, Delitzsch, Geneva, INT, Bezuyen, Psalm 145:6, 11:4,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Don't you like to watch movies where the good guy wins in the end? Maybe the hero goes into to a foreign country and frees the ill-treated hostages人质...or he repels击退 and invading入侵force by personal skill and power. And you go home feeling good because the hero saved the day. But the Lord's kingdom is not advanced by a lone孤单wolf strategy with distant admirers. It is done by corporate actions of Christians. Each one has his own gifts that he must use for Christ's kingdom. It is when we work together that we will capture the world for him.

But for Christians to work together they must have a hearty trust in the King Jesus – a strong allegiance忠诚 to the same Lord. After all, who would want to work side by side with people with different allegiances? You would trust them. Today you will hear from God regarding Rahab's faith and how she proved she had the same allegiance as the Jews.

Our headings are:

**Rahab's Faith Exhibited.**

**Rahab's Faith Expressed.**

Our goals are: That **you will be encouraged to exhibit and express your faith for mutual encouragement and that you will then work for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.**

## **Rahab's Faith Exhibited**

1 Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot妓女 named Rahab, and lodged寄宿 there.

**1. Joshua secretly sent 2 spies into Canaan again...40 years after he and others had spied out the land.**

**a. But why did he send them out secretly?** If the Jews started panicking恐慌 because of what they hear about the land, then that panic could have become contagious会感染的. General Joshua did not want to lead an army in panic.

**b. But why send out spies at all? Was Joshua lacking in faith when he sent the spies out? Not at all. He did not want to know whether the Jews were able to fight the enemy. He knew they could. He wanted to know how to attack the enemy.** He trusted God's Words. But he knew he had to "pray and keep his gunpowder火药dry." You have to have faith and works. Faith in God does not remove diligence勤勉. Rather, as Henry said, it increases diligence.

**James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Because a sailor believes in the breeze, he sets sail on the seas.

**2. When the spies entered Canaan they came to Rahab, a former harlot, and entered her house.** (Why was she called a harlot? Probably just for identification. In the pagan异教徒 world she lived in, adultery was not a bad thing, so it was not necessarily a bad name there.) Why did the spies end up at her house? God's providence天意! She believed in Jehovah and not in the wicked religions of Canaan. If these spies had gone to anyone else's house they could have been turned over to the king and executed. Spies were never treated with mercy. There was no Geneva Convention to protect them torture.

**Can you imagine how this providential天赐act would have encouraged the faith of the spies?** Would it not have assured them that God would give them the land?

2 And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country." 3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

**3. Now the King of Canaan, having heard that there were spies in Rahab's house, went there to demand that she turned the Jewish spies over** to him. Under normal circumstances that would have been a reasonable request. But now it wasn't a reasonable request because the land belonged to the people of God, Israel, through a covenantal promise.

**Genesis 15:18** On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river...

4 Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 "And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake追上 them."

**4. In an act of faith...true faith in Jehovah God...she deceived 欺骗 the wicked king.** Rahab was honored by God and her name listed as one who had faith and showed that faith by works.

Hebrews 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish 毁灭 with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

The Apostle James further accentuated the work of this saint of God, emphasizing her deceptive 骗人的 work.

James 2:25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?

There are many of course who argue that it is always wrong to lie. Yet these same people will argue that it is okay to kill in war or self-defense. But none of God's commands is in a bubble 幻想. EG: *You must honor the Sabbath*, but some must work on Sundays. *You shall not murder*, but some are executioners...or soldiers... who have to kill, to prevent the unjust taking of human life. Why would it be wrong to deceive in war against the King of Canaan in order to protect innocent life? Rahab had a moral responsibility – to show her faith – by what she did. And would she not have been treated like a hero is she had turned over the spies? But she chose to suffer with the people of God. She did not wonder if she would lose her friends and family if she compromised with the Jews.

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, **25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God** than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, **26 esteeming 尊重 the reproach 数说 of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt;** for he looked to the reward. **27 By faith he forsook 离弃 Egypt,** not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

The point here: Christians are not to fight in detached parties, as that sacrifices the common cause. Our common cause is dominion for Christ and we must fight together. Way too many people think individually. They argue: I can be a good Christian wherever I am. But the problem with that argument is that it negates 否定 fighting together. Think of how many churches have left Toronto, instead of being salt and light to the immigrant community. Do you know that you have a calling to be a member and serve the Lord's church...just as ministers are called to serve? So don't walk away from wherever God has called you to serve without good reason! This is why any true child of God will be joined to the church of Jesus Christ and stay there until God moves him.

6 (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid 放置 in order on the roof.) 7 Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords 渡口. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

**5. Then Rahab continued to show her faith by hiding the men on the roof,** covering them with stalks of flax. (Flax was often dried on rooftops.) Her action protected the spies and advanced the cause of the kingdom. All 3 could sleep well that night knowing that they were safe. What a change this was! A woman who sold her body for money was not risking her life for her brothers in Christ. It is one thing to roll in the mud for a time; it is another to stay there.

## **Rahab's Faith Expressed**

8 Now before they 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,** that the terror 恐怖 of you has fallen on us, and that all the **inhabitants of the land are fainthearted** because of you. 10 "For we have heard how the LORD **dried up the water of the Red Sea [for you]** when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, **Sihon and Og,** whom you utterly destroyed. 11 "And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; **neither did there remain any more courage** in anyone because of you, for the **LORD your God,** He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

**1. Rahab confirmed her faith in the Lord clearly** (and the NT confirmed it). But w **What specifically about her expression that made us think that way?**

**a. She wanted to share that profession with the spies** and went up on the roof that night – much like the early church used the fish to express their faith to each other. The strangers were blood brothers. She did not fear her brothers. Do you think she could trust the Canaanites that way? By no means! **Trust is essential for progress!**

**b. She said: "I know that the Lord (Yaweh) has given you the land."** She knew God's covenant name. She was renouncing the power of all her many gods for Jehovah (Yahweh). She confessed that God's power put fear in the hearts of the people of Canaan, and that some submitted to him. She confessed God's power over Red Sea, over Egypt, and over King Sihon and Og. And then she confessed that Yahweh is the true God of heaven and earth! Her fear led her to seek God and submit to him. This was not a recent fear. This act of God was done 40 years before... decades ago. And it made such an impression in her that she did not forget.

Deuteronomy 11:25 "No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the

dread 恐惧 of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread 践踏, just as He has said to you.

The fear of God is one of the reasons you young people should desire to make profession of your faith.

**c. Rahab learned that this was God's promise to Abraham 400 years** before.

Genesis 15:15 "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**"

God promised to give Israel the land when he could no longer stand the wickedness of the Canaanites.

**3. Furthermore, Rahab showed her faith by speaking up for her family.** She truly cared for the salvation of her family.

She was thinking about the covenant already. In a way, she was like Noah who believed God's Words and then made preparation for his family's safety. Noah preached for more than 100 years.

Which Christian father doesn't pray for his children? Don't you spend time praying for your own that they would not stray 迷路 from truth? Yes, it is important to think of world dominion for Jesus Christ, **but it starts in your home!**

And notice how different this is today when kids are trained to think selfishly. How easy it is to dump old parents and grandparents in a nursing home so they won't bother you in your work.

**4. Is it strange that God would use a woman like this to advance his kingdom's cause?**

a. God uses natural and human means when it suits him.

b. Consider how God used Sarah, a barren woman, to bring the Savior.

c. Consider how God used Ruth, a scorned 蔑视 Moabitess, to bring the Savior.

d. Consider how God used an adulteress as Bathsheba to bring the Savior.

e. Consider how God used the poor Virgin Mary, the prostitute Mary...and the woman taken in adultery...

f. Consider how God used the prominent women of Paul's days...business woman...and laborers as Priscilla.

g. Consider how God uses ordinary woman today to advance the cause of his kingdom! None of these women was a preacher...but what impact they had as part of the dominion strategy! No one is every too low to be used for the kingdom. He will use a child. Will you let him use you?

### **Conclusion:**

Rahab had faith. She showed that faith by her actions. She expressed that faith by her profession in front of the spies of God. She knew that there was always an element of risk in life, but faith made her able to face those risks. She then worked together with other believers to advance Christ's kingdom.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. How much are you willing to give up for the common cause of building Christ's kingdom? If you have to move to better serve God's kingdom, are you willing to? Notice how different this is from what most do today - they get a job...accept the job...that then look for a church around there. Kingdom work seems incidental 附带的.

2. How strong is your faith? If your faith isn't strong, you wouldn't want to give up much. If your faith is strong then you will want to give of your tithes and offerings, you will invest time in the life of your brothers and sisters and children, you will use the abilities God has given you to promote the church of Jesus Christ. But sometimes your faith is weak.

3. So how does your faith get stronger? By feasting on the Word of God and asking God's Holy Spirit to use it strengthen your spiritual bones for the fight. Every child of God needs regular strengthening.

Finally, if you are not on the conquering side of the Lord, you will be conquered and spend eternity in hell. But if you wave a white flag of surrender and look to the streams of blood that flowed down the Lord's side when he died in the place of sinners, then you will be brought on the side of the conquerors and enjoy eternity in the presence of the Lord.