

**Joshua 2**  
**'Stay the Course: Preparing to Move'**  
**Pastor Leitu Karnuth**

KAPONO: Would you bow your heads in a word of prayer? Lord, thank You, Lord. Would You speak to us, Lord, this evening? We thank You so much for Your word, Lord. We thank You for this place that You have blessed us with, Lord, with pastors that You have blessed us with, Lord, that will preach Your word, Lord. We thank You for Your instruction, Lord, how life changing it is and how much we need it, Lord.

So would You speak to us? We know that You have something special, Lord, something that will bless us this evening, Lord. So would You speak? We thank You for this time, Lord. In Jesus' name, amen.

[ Audience says, "Amen!" ]

PASTOR LEITU: Aloha!

[ Audience says, "Aloha!" ]

Why don't you have a seat? Welcome to Calvary Chapel, Kaneohe. And for you online, welcome to Calvary Chapel as well. Pastor JD is still resting on his staycation. Continue to pray that the Lord would give him the rest that he so needs.

Tonight, I'll continue in the *Book of Joshua*. We'll be in *Chapter 2*, which is pretty much an amazing chapter. If you don't already know her, you will meet Rahab tonight. Before I start, let's pray and ask God to bless His word.

Father in Heaven, we come before Your throne to just give You all the praise for what You're going to do tonight, Lord, as we delve into Your Word, Lord and Joshua, this mighty man of God, Lord. We come before You to just thank You for him and that which You have in Your Word. Teach us and instruct us, Lord, as I come before You to just thank You, praise You for what You're going to do here tonight.

Lord, we never forget the cross. We never forget what You did, and You sent Your Son. Forgive us for our sins, Lord, that You had to initiate the cross. Jesus, forgive us our sins that we – You had to endure so much pain for us. And Holy Spirit, we come before You to pray and give thanks, Lord, that You sealed us, and You lead our lives.

And Lord, You change us from glory to glory. So lead us tonight, Lord, as we learn Your word, Lord. We pray these things In Jesus' name, Amen.

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*Joshua Chapter 2:1.* **"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 named Rahab and lodged there."**

We're about to witness the power of God's amazing grace. We meet Rahab, a prostitute who is in the Hall of Fame in the Book of Hebrews. God love and saved this once-upon-a-time heathen, just as God did the same thing for us, as many of us came from similar lifestyles.

We called out to Him for salvation. He saved us from our sins. Now we're transformed, and many of us are being used mightily by God.

Like Jeremiah, God knew us before He formed us in the womb. He knew that we would choose Him, so He chose us. So Joshua sends out two men on a reconnaissance mission. He sends these men into enemy territory. A good general will always get a lay of the land. He would map out a war plan before battle.

We know Joshua trusted these men. This is dangerous; this is a dangerous mission. And so he would send his best. They were to survey the land, especially Jericho, where this was the first target that God would show Joshua. The two spies are putting their life on the line. It'll be a dangerous mission. They could lose their lives. The spies traveled five miles from the Jordan River to the city of Jericho. And Joshua would wait for an intelligence report from these men.

In *Chapter 1*, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous. Joshua was a gifted military leader. But we know that Joshua depended on God, that he put his trust in the Lord. In the first few chapters, we don't see Joshua praying. We read that it was God who did all the talking, all the commanding. But we know Joshua had a strong relationship with God. His mentor was also a godly man, Moses.

Praying is communicating with God. It's spending time with God and staying close to Him. Joshua must have prayed and asked God for the right men to send on this mission. He must have also prayed for their safe return.

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So although it wasn't written, we know that Joshua spoke with God because God spoke back to him. The success up to this point are proof, evidence that Joshua was a friend of God. We know that friends talk to each other.

*John Chapter 15:7*, tells us, and Jesus speaking, **"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."**

In the phrase "abide in me," Jesus is asking His followers to stay connected in their relationship with Him. Joshua is a man connected and abiding in the Lord, and the Lord blessed him tremendously. So Joshua is ready. He's made his plans, but he also knows that the Lord makes the final decisions.

*Psalms Chapter 37:23-26* tells us, **"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. [Verse 24] Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lends, and his descendants are blessed."**

*Jeremiah Chapter 10:23-24* tells us, **"I know, Lord, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. So correct me, Lord, but please be gentle. Do not correct me in anger, for I would die."**

*Proverbs Chapter 16:9*, **"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."**

Yes, Joshua is making plans, but he knows God can change them. It's wisdom for us to make short- and long-term plans in our lives. But as believers in Jesus Christ, we know it's God's plan that will come to fruition.

So hold on loosely to the plans that we make. God is omniscient. He knows everything already. If you've been a Christian for any length of time, we know God's plans will always win out in our lives. I pray that we'll be at peace with His decisions, that we would not fight God regarding His plans for our lives. His plans are infinitely better than any plans that we could ever make. Amen?

[ Audience says, "Amen!" ]

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Joshua and more than 2 million Israelites are preparing. They're still camped in Moab, across the river from the city of Jericho. In a few days, they will finally cross the Jordan River.

The city of Jericho was nine acres in size, and it was surrounded by walls. Joshua strategically planned to take Jericho first. It would then serve as a military base, but it'll also be a temporary home, a temporary tent-home for the Israelites.

From there, Joshua could lead his troops, and the army would march straight across Canaan's center. That way the north and southern tribes would be cut off, the Canaanite troops could not join forces, and Joshua would then attack the southern cities, the weaker cities. Once the south was defeated, Joshua would head north.

Meanwhile, God was choreographing the spies' steps. He led them to an owner of an inn. The Lord led them to Rahab. She's an innkeeper. She's also a prostitute. She's has an immoral reputation, but God will use her. We'll see going forward that Rahab will be used mightily by the Lord. God has amazing plans for this Gentile woman.

I never thought that God would ever use me. I still pinch myself as I never imagined life could be this good walking with the Lord and having a relationship with Him. Daily, He shows me His power in my life.

I know that all of you have your own God stories of His amazing grace in your lives, stories of what God has delivered you from, amazing stories of what He's done in your lives, but also the work that He's done through your lives as well, how he's grown and matured us as men and women and how He's taught us His Word, the Bible, how He's using you to reach the world for Jesus, and I'm so grateful that we accepted the message of the cross.

Sadly, too many will refuse God's salvation. I debated whether to read this chapter, but here we go. I think you'll enjoy it.

*1 Corinthians Chapter 1:18, starting with verse 18.* **"The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."**

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So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in His wisdom saw to it that the world would never know Him through human wisdom, He has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise.

And He chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; He made us pure and holy, and freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord."

The life of a prostitute is so opposed to God's standards. At one time, Rahab must have thought that living a godly life must have been foolishness. But world events at the time caused her to pause. Trouble is coming her way, and it could mean her doom. She's having second thoughts about God. For many of us, it was trouble that turned us to Jesus.

*Joshua Chapter 2:2*, as we move forward, "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."

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So the king of Jericho had his security team on watch. Joshua's men may have asked too many questions. Could have been their speech that gave them away. Maybe it was their appearance. Whatever the case, they were found out.

*Verse 3 of Joshua Chapter 2, "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."*

Surely the king of Jericho knew the Israelites were coming. All nations in the area knew what Israel was up to. They were coming to claim their rightful land. You can't hide over 2 million people in a desert. Jericho's king would be waiting and watching for the Israelites. The king would have his security detail on watch, His soldiers make a report to the king.

And someone saw two spies enter Rahab's inn. They go to Rahab's inn to arrest these spies. Rahab's inn must have been a popular place. If you wanted information, see Rahab. The king knows the spies visited Rahab. He immediately orders her to bring them out.

The enemy tries to thwart God's plans in our lives, but He will use this woman to help His people. The Lord knew that she believed Him. Though she was a prostitute, she was one of God's elect. He knew that one day she would repent, that she would surrender her life to Him.

*Jeremiah Chapter 29:11 tells us — through 13 tells us — "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me."*

No matter our history, God can use us. Don't shy away from the calling that God has on your life because of your past. You're forgiven. Move forward and let God use you. Don't think that you can't make a difference in this life.

God wants to use your life to make a difference in the world. God can use you to accomplish great and mighty things. You have a testimony, each one of us. People are watching, and they're watching you because they need hope.

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*Ephesians, Chapter 2:10* tells us, **"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."**

*Hebrews Chapter 13:20-21* tells us, **"Now may the God of peace — who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with His blood — may He equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen."**

So the next time God calls you to do something, go for it and let God guide you and provide for you. Amen?

[ Audience says, "Amen!" ]

*Joshua Chapter 2:4-7*, **"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. 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 them."** (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

**Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate."**

At great risk to herself, Rahab hides these men. The reputation of the Israelites had preceded them. Nations had heard of the miracles that God had performed. They heard of the ten plagues in Egypt. They heard that Pharaoh lost his only son. People knew about the Angel of Death.

So he makes the decision to help God's — So she makes a decision to help God's people. You know, men and women, they know the true and living God. They might not know Him as Jesus, but they know God. They might say they're atheists. But deep down inside, they know.

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When I was 12 years old, my best friend asked me a question. His name was Tony Oshiro. He's my wife Jeannie's younger brother. He asked if I believed in God. My reply to him was, "Yes, I believe."

This was the only conversation that I can ever remember as a youth. I know that God had planted this in my memory bank so that when I got saved, I would remember this and use this as a testimony. I never stepped into a church growing up, never once. In the country of Tokelau, where my mother was from, my mother was always in church on Sundays. My stepdad had an experience — had a bad experience as an altar boy. So I never went to church as a youth.

I heard kids at school talk about God. I didn't know anything about Him. I knew Santa Claus, but I didn't know Jesus. But my conscience told me that there was a God and that He was real. Then I got saved, and this passage of Scripture hit me.

It's from *Romans Chapter 2:12-15*. It tells us, **"When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in His sight. Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know His law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right."**

In this passage, *Romans Chapter 2*, Paul is chastising his fellow Jews. Paul is an Israelite. He loves his countrymen. He was one of the Israelites — He's one of Israel's finest religious minds. He knew the Jewish religion of Judaism by heart. The traditions and the Jewish festivals were ingrained in his mind.

When Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus, all Paul could do was surrender. He realized that all of the Torah, the first five books of our Bible, pointed to Jesus.

But before he got saved, Paul the Apostle used to think and thought that you should think as the Jews thought. Jews thought themselves better than the Gentiles because they had the law, the Torah, and circumcision.



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They know that they're God's chosen people, so they condemn the Gentiles for their sin. But the Jews were doing the same things. They're just as bad, if not worse, than the Gentiles. And so Paul reprimands them for their hypocrisy.

The Jews were supposed to be God's representatives to the world. They were to shine God's light to the world; instead, they were just as evil as the Gentiles. The Gentiles, whom Paul mentioned, did not have God's Word, but their conscience spoke to them about right and wrong. Their conscience told them that there is a God.

So when my friend Tony asked if I believed in God, never going to church, or ever reading the Bible, I said, "Yes, I believe." My conscience told me that there is a God. I'm just sorry that it took so long for me to surrender to Him.

So Rahab may not have known every detail about God, but she knew God was real. Her conscience spoke to her of His existence. Instinctively, she knew, and she believed. She heard the stories of His favor for Israel. She knew the Israelites worshiped God, God, whom her conscience revealed to her was the true and living God. Rahab had been a prostitute and an owner of an inn.

Again, everybody knew her. She was probably the life of the party. Men flock to her establishment. But there was a loss; there was also an emptiness in her heart. God created us for His good pleasure. He created us to have fellowship with Him. All of us have a God-shaped void in our hearts. And this void can only be filled by Jesus. Amen?

[ Audience says, "Amen!" ]

The world and its treasures cannot fill this void. Try as you might, spend as you might, you will never fulfill this void. We constantly hear of famous and rich people. They have so much, but wealth and fame never satisfy them. Then you hear the reports that they took their own lives.

Living a sinful environment can wear on you, so can the lifestyle of sin, which Rahab lived. It wore me down. And that's why I called for help 23 years ago. I called out to Jesus, and shortly after that, I got saved. The Lord sent somebody into my life and shared the Gospel.

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Again, this void can be only filled by Jesus. We try to fill this void with material things, with worldly philosophies, alcohol, drugs, sex, rock and roll. Too many succumb to these evils and lose their soul. So many lose their lives in it. This void we have can be only filled, again, by God.

For us who are saved, we know. We know the feeling. We remember what it was like when we were in the world. Then we got saved and a whole new world opened up for us. We learned about the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ - His Son, and the Holy Spirit. And that void we had for so long was filled, filled to the brim with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness.

Like the woman at the well, we found the spring of everlasting life. Like the woman at the well, so too will Rahab find that spring of life.

*John Chapter 4:13-14, "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water with thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him [Or her] a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'*"

These next five verses I will read is powerful. Rahab: She goes to the men who she's hiding. She shares with them that she knows what's coming. And by faith, she makes a profession of who God is.

**Joshua Chapter 2:8-11, "Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: "I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.**

**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.**

**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."**

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What a powerful proclamation of the true and living God. Rahab heard all the stories about His power, what He did for His people, but her conscience told her that this God of Israel is the true and living God and that He is leading and prospering Joshua.

So many in the world don't believe. Their conscience tells us there's a God, but foolish and blind pride blind them to the truths of Scripture. By faith, Rahab decides to help the people of God, at the same time, forsaking her own people and their false gods. If found out, she'd be guilty of treason, and she would probably be stoned to death.

All of Canaan has known that Israel is coming. They know the history and to whom the land belongs. The people are in fear and dreading what's coming. They heard about the Red Sea miracle God performed. They heard the victories of battles over wicked kings. The Canaanites are discouraged, and they lost all courage. Joshua is coming, and God is leading the way.

With all the knowledge Rahab had about God, she made a wise choice as to whose side she would choose. I believe that she had been thinking about this for a while. Like Ruth in our Bible, she chose the people of God.

We see that in *Ruth Chapter 1*. Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law's sons had died. Naomi wanted both of her daughters-in-law to go back to their foreign country. Ruth loves her mother-in-law so much. She doesn't want to leave her. God's plan for Ruth is going according to God's perfect plan.

We see that in *Ruth Chapter 1:14-16*. **“And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. “Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.” But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”**

I pray that like Ruth, who clung to Naomi, that we will cling to Jesus in all our might. Ruth is a Moabite woman who respected Naomi. Ruth knew and loved God because of Naomi's life. Naomi was a living testimony of the Lord. She lived her life in the way that a godly woman

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should. Yes, her life was riddled with trials and even death. She lost her husband and her two sons, but she never wavered in her trust and love of the Lord.

Naomi's walk matched her talk. God would use her tremendously. She guided Ruth to the marriage of Boaz. Boaz fathered Obed, who fathered Jesse. Jesse fathered King David, whose lineage Jesus came through. Ruth, a Gentile, was part of Jesus' family line.

I want to encourage us to best represent Jesus well, whether by words or actions. Let us walk well with our Lord. You have no idea who's watching your life Like Naomi, shine your light so people see Jesus. Shine by sharing the gospel in how you live. Then when the opportunity comes, use words.

*Matthew Chapter 5:13-16* tells us, **"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."**

As for Rahab, again, she's heard the stories of Israel. She gets firsthand knowledge from her patrons. Military and civilians have graced her doors, but she's now come face-to-face with God. She's spoken to two Israelite men who worship the Lord. She knows the forces of the true and living God are coming.

I believe that Rahab was tired of her life as a prostitute, man after man, men with no morals, many of them married and committing adultery. Like the woman at the well, Rahab knew. She was guilty, and she knows it.

There's no character and uprightness in these men. There's no integrity or honor. They're faint hearted and without courage. They're fearful because the Israelites are coming.

What a difference that she meets two godly men. They had to be if Joshua chose them. How refreshing it is to talk with men who don't swear. These are men of stature and strength. These are dedicated and brave soldiers, courageous enough to travel into an enemy city, two men by themselves, surrounded by the enemy. These are real men, godly men.

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By faith, she chose to side with God. She chose to help these two spies. She could have chosen to side with her people. Either way, she's in danger of losing her life.

God who's coming is the true and living God. She's had her fill of idols and false worship. She knows the filth and deception of false gods. She's seen babies sacrificed to Moloch. She's seen the debauchery of her patrons. She's seen too much evil and wickedness. It's time for a life change.

She made a wise choice. God already knew her choice. Going forward, we'll see again God used her mightily. At this point, Rahab has no idea of the impact of her life on history. She has no idea what God has planned for her life.

Some of you here tonight and online know the story. But for you who don't, you'll be amazed. But we follow an amazing God.

*Verses 12-13 of Joshua Chapter 2* tells us, **“Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father’s house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.”**

By faith, she helped these two spies. Yes, Rahab feared for her life, but she also loved her family and wanted them saved. She knows she has a chance at life with Israel. She wanted her whole family saved as well. She hoped that no one in her family would turn her in because she's committing treason. She hopes that her family would listen to her. So she begged the spies to help her in return for her kindness in hiding them. She asked them for their kindness.

*In verse 14 of Chapter 2,* **“So the men answered her, “Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the Lord has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you.”**

So these men make a covenant with Rahab. We offer our lives as a guarantee for your safety. If you don't betray us, we will keep our promise and be kind to you when the Lord gives us this land. They won't go back on their word. They made an oath to treat Rahab's family kindly. But if Rahab leaves out any information, the promise will be broken and so will her family be broken.

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*In verses 15-16 of Joshua Chapter 2, "Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall. And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."*

So Rahab's house was built into the town wall. She let the spies down by a rope through her window. She said, Escape to the hill country, hide for three days, and you can go on your way once they give up on their search for you.

*In verses 15-16, (17-18) "So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home."*

They tell her we will be bound by this oath that we have taken only if you follow these instructions. When we come into the land, you must leave this scarlet rope hanging from your window, the window you let us escape through. And all your family members, your father, mother, brothers, and all your relatives must be here inside the house.

You know scarlet is a bright red color. We remember when Israel was in Egypt. They're preparing to escape with Moses. The scarlet red blood of the lamb saved all of Israel's firstborn sons. Israelites had to stay in their homes while the Angel of Death passed over. Pharaoh, King of Egypt, lost his son. We see Jesus on the cross, His body broken, His scarlet blood poured out so that we could be saved. So too, the scarlet rope will save Rahab and her family.

*In verses 19-21, "So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him. And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."*

**Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window."**

The spies make sure that Rahab understands. Rahab, when we come, don't let your family go outside. If they go out into the streets, they'll be killed. And it won't be our fault. But if

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anyone lays a hand on your people inside your house, we'll accept the responsibility for their death. But listen, carefully, Rahab. If you betray us, we're not bound by this oath in any way. She says I accept your terms. And she sent them on their way. And then she hung that scarlet rope in her window.

*Joshua verses 22-24 of Chapter 2, "They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way but did not find them. So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them. And they said to Joshua, "Truly the Lord has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."*

Joshua's men, sent on a special mission, returned. They returned with great news. The nation of Canaan was scared, they're afraid, fainthearted, The battle hasn't even begun, and they've given up. This was critical news for Joshua. Rahab gave this information to the spies. Again, she sides with the God of Israel, and she will be tremendously blessed.

So here in Joshua, a descendant of Shem, he's ready to cross the Jordan River and conquer the land promised through his ancestor Abraham. But in the land of Canaan, there was a small remnant. I love the word "remnant" in the scriptures. It simply means a small group of believers.

The world system is opposed to God, and it's been that way from the beginning. Those who love Jesus in the world are His remnant, those who are born-again, those who have called out to Jesus for salvation. There's not many in the world.

*Matthew Chapter 7:13-14* tells us **"You can enter God's kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."**

In the land of Canaan, there was a remnant. It was made up of Rahab and her family. She knew who the true and living God is.

In *verse 11 of Chapter 2*, she said to the spies, **"For the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."** In *verse 12*, she begged the spies to promise her that they would swear by the Lord to help her family.

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I never see Rahab asking help for herself, but she was a believer in the God of Israel. Her name is written in the Book of Hebrews. God has a special calling and plan for Rahab. He even listed her in the Hall of Faith.

*Hebrews Chapter 11:30-31*, **"By faith, the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith, the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."**

In the Book of Hebrews Hall of Faith, there are two women included, Sarah and Rahab. Rahab was a Gentile, a prostitute, and a woman. Her lineage, her occupation, and her gender, all of these factors should have exempted her from the Hall of Faith, but yet she would be included.

She turned from her nation to the Lord. She saved the spies that Joshua had sent. She believed and trusted God to save her. She was actually the first Gentile convert in the Scriptures, and she believed in the God of the Bible.

Rahab is also in the Hall because she turned from her sin. She feared and she honored God. God honored her faith and blessed her. She will be in heaven. While she was on Earth, she had a son. His name was Boaz. He married Ruth.

In *Matthew Chapter 1*, we see the family of Jesus, those of His lineage, His physical ancestors. *Matthew Chapter 1:5-6* tells us, **"Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king."**

Rahab, a prostitute, married Salmon, an Israelite. Nothing is said about their meeting or marriage. But Matthew, who had been with Jesus, writes that the union of Salmon and Rahab produced Boaz.

Boaz would meet a Moabite woman named Ruth. We read about her earlier. Rahab was Ruth's mother-in-law. Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed. Obed had a son named Jesse, whom many of us know. Jesse was the father of King David.

About a thousand years later, Jesus was born. Jesus was born to King David's line. The savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord's family line was riddled with sin, those



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with checkered pasts. Rahab was one of them. God used a prostitute in the line of His son, Jesus. She ran a house of ill repute, but she repented.

True believers can relate. So too is our history tainted. We all have sinned and fall short. If you don't have a relationship with Jesus and you're not saved, I pray for those here and those online. I pray that you would call out to Him to be saved. It's simple: Just say, "Jesus, I need help. Come and save me."

Joshua was an upright man of God. Rahab was a woman with a bad reputation. We'll see both of them in heaven. They both loved the Lord and served Him. God had a plan and calling for their lives. Let us always stay the course, and always be prepared to move when God calls us. Amen?

[ Audience says, "Amen!" ]

Why don't we stand? And let's pray.

Father in heaven, we come before You to thank You, Lord, for Your Word. Oh, Lord, I just thank You, Lord, that You're so good, Lord, and that You're God, and that You loved us so much, Lord. As we read Joshua, Lord, and we see Rahab, Ruth, and how these families tied in with each other, Lord, Your Son was born through that line, the line of sinners, Lord, which I am one myself.

So we thank You, Lord, for what You're going to do going forward in our lives. Lord, as we prepare, prepare and are readied and steadied for that which You have for us in our lives. And we prayed these things, Father, and ask things in Jesus' name. Amen.