

- I) V1-7 INTRO: Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly
 - a) Joshua is the general of the army and is now leading the Jews into the promised land
 - 1) The Jews are encamped around seven miles from the Jordan, east of the river
 - 2) Jericho is situated seven miles to the west of the Jordan, so they are 14 miles apart
- II) AS ISRAEL IS ENCAMPED: Joshua sends out two young scouts to spy out the city (6:23)
 - a) They spied out the terrain, organization of army, supplies, water, allies, armor, guard shifts, etc
 - 1) They were young, fast runners, brave, and wise and qualified to perform this task
- III) *ORDINARILY*: Their information would enable Joshua to develop his battle strategy
 - a) Developing a strategy is normally a wise way to enter in to battle
 - 1) Pr 20:18 Plans are established by counsel; *By wise counsel wage war.*
 - 2) Lu 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?
- IV) THE SENDING OF SPIES: Was not an act of unbelief, but rather a cautious approach
 - a) He was not afraid to enter in, but did not want to presume on the Lord so he did the prudent thing
- V) AS WE SHALL SEE: Though Joshua does the normally wise thing, God will reveal something deeper
 - a) The entering in to the promised land is more than a simple war, or conquest
 - 1) It represents the nation entering in to the promises of God, revealing His goodness to them
 - 2) Pr 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.
- VI) V1 THE SPIES: Are to go to the city of Jericho (the city of fragrance), a city known for its palm trees
 - a) This is most likely the oldest continuously occupied city in history
 - 1) It was a fortified city, with walls large enough to have houses built upon them
 - 2) It would have appeared unassailable to the former slaves turned warriors
- VII) V1 SO: They went and came to the house of a harlot named *Rahab* and *lodged there*
 - a) They must have mixed in with the people in the city long enough to see a house on the wall
 - 1) It would have been told them that it was the house of a prostitute named Rahab
 - 2) This would be the best place to enter in, because men often went in to her home
- VIII) *INTERESTINGLY*: Rahab is translated *spacious*
 - a) The church fathers looked at her as a picture of the church, gathered out of the world of sinners
 - 1) God's grace is wide enough for all to enter in, through faith
- IX) V2 AND: It was told the king of Jericho saying Behold men have come here tonight from the children
 - a) Somehow it was noticed, and the city king was notified of these men's arrival
- X) *THOUGHT*: Though God had made it clear that Israel would possess the land, opposition is inevitable
 - a) Battles are fought, but the victory in God is guaranteed
 - 1) Dt 20:3-4 (Moses, speaking of the priest) And he shall say to them, Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
- I) V3 SO: The king of Jericho sent to Rahab saying Bring out the men who have come to you

- a) Obviously he is afraid, knowing that these men represented the nation of Israel and were spies
- II) V4-7 THEN: The woman took the two men and hid them; and she said Yes the men came to me
 - a) The bible reports sin, but does not condone sin and Rahab is guilty of lying
 - 1) Rahab's lie is reported, but is not commended and is not approved of
- III) V8-14 SO: Before they lay down she came up to them on the roof and said to the men I know that the
 - a) FIRST: Notice how she approaches the men
 - 1) She is a prostitute and is used to bargaining
 - 2) She actually comes to make a proposition to the men, with the intent of saving her family
- IV) WE MUST REMEMBER: She was a Gentile woman who was acting on what she had heard
 - a) *She had heard* how their God had performed a miraculous deliverance for the people of Israel
 - 1) They crossed the Red Sea, and they had defeated two great kings
 - 2) She acted on what she had heard, and what she had come to believe
- V) V11 NOTICE: And as soon as we heard these things our hearts melted neither did there remain
 - a) This is what God had promised Moses
 - 1) Dt 2:25 This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.
- VI) V11 KEY: Though she was not aware of the promises God had made to Israel, she had a germ of faith
 - a) She said that their God was God in heaven above and on earth beneath
 - 1) Dt 4:39 Therefore know this day, and consider *it* in your heart, that the LORD Himself *is* God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; *there is no other*.
 - 2) Though many had heard of what had happened, she was admitting to a faith in *their God*
 - 3) She was making a choice to trust in the God who was doing such things for Israel
- VII) V12-13 AND: Spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have and deliver
 - a) When it came to choosing sides, she had chosen to side with God and His people
 - 1) But she did not do so selfishly: she also wanted her family to be saved and interceded for them
- VIII) V14 SO: The men answered her Our lives for yours if none of you tell this business of ours
 - a) On one condition: do not report us
- IX) V15-16 THEN: She let them down by a rope through the window for her house was on the city wall
 - a) Within a few miles was an area honeycombed with caves that they could hide in
- X) V17-21 THEN: The men said to her We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us
 - a) The spies guaranteed her and her family's safety only if a scarlet cord identified her home
 - 1) OBVIOUSLY: Scarlet was easier to identify than green, brown, or grey
- XI) NOTICE: V21 And she bound the scarlet cord in the window
 - a) Rahab is pictured as a picture of a person in deep sin who is still not impossible to save
 - 1) She is a picture of how gracious God is, and how faith in Him provides deliverance for you
 - 2) The scarlet cord represents the color of blood, which reminds us of the Passover
 - 3) It was this color that represented deliverance, as the blood is what covers and saves us
- I) RAHAB: Was to be saved because she believed, and she acted on what she believed
 - a) She did not know when the city was going to fall

- 1) It could be within a few days, weeks, months: it did not matter
 - 2) She moved immediately to fulfill her part of the arrangement
- II) AS WE SHALL LATER SEE: She also made sure that her family was brought to safety
- a) Josh 6:22-25
- III) THIS SALVATION: Was the result of faith that was put into action
- a) Heb 11:31 *By faith* the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.
 - b) Jas 2:25-26 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent *them* out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
- III) IN THIS EVENT: We see three basic things
- a) FIRST: Salvation is possible, even for the worst of sinners
 - 1) No one is beyond the reach of the grace of God, to save
 - 2) No matter how many men she was with, all of her sins, her past and her reputation, God saved her
 - 3) 1 Jn 1:9, 2 Co 5:17
- IV) SECOND: Salvation came through something represented by a scarlet cord: the blood of the Lamb
- a) She moved to obey, had a scarlet cord in her window, and was saved because of her faith
 - 1) Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
 - 2) 1 Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- V) THIRD: In spite of all of our past sins, God can make us entirely different
- a) Amazingly, she ended up on the first page of the New Testament
 - 1) Eventually Rahab married a Jewish man and ended up in Jesus' genealogy
 - 2) Mt 1:5-6 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king
- VI) V22-24 THEN: They departed and went to the mountain and stayed there three days until all the
- a) Even as Rahab had to act, so did the spies
 - 1) Unlike the 10 spies who brought an evil report, this time these spies brought encouragement