



## Family Christmas (with Rahab)

### Week 2

#### **Praise to God for today: 2 Cor. 9:12-15**

Lord, we pray that the service this morning will serve the spiritual needs of your saints and that it will overflow with many thanks to You. We pray this service will glorify You because of our obedience to our confession in the gospel of Christ. May Your extraordinary grace be upon us this morning. We thank You for Your indescribable gift!

#### **Prayer for the persecuted church:**

We pray this morning for the persecuted church in ETHIOPIA. We thank you, Lord, that you are the head of the body, the church. We pray that the Lord will open the eyes of

government officials to protect their citizens, regardless of religious affiliation, but especially for Your church.

### **Prayer for a local church:**

This morning we pray for our brother Bob Warring at 412 Church in Menifee. We pray that You Lord, the Lord of Peace, will give them peace at all times and in every way. Be with them this morning in their time of worship and may it be a time of calm and peace from Your very presence.

### **Closing:**

Open up Your Word to us this morning. We pray that we would be a church filled with people who hunger for hearing from You in our private devotions, public gatherings and conversations with each other. We pray that we would be a church eager to come and hear the Word preached on Sunday morning, that we would be a church of people that longs to open the Bible and discover anew the truth of Your character and conquests.

**Introduction - If you know about your family history, how did you come by that knowledge?**

- **Documentary**
- **Records**
- **Someone told you**

**People tend to hide disgraceful family ties, you know, like Nazi grandparents. But what gave me courage last week to share that about my grandparents was Jesus and His family tree. He showcased four of the most scandalous women in his family tree, which are recorded in Matthew.**

## **Matthew 1:1-5**

**1** The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

**2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, **3** and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, **4** and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, **5** and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

**Rahab was the great-great grandmother of King David, but who exactly was she?**

## **Joshua 1:1-2**

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

## Joshua 1:10-11

10 And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, 11 "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.'"

- ♦ The Lord wants Joshua to get the people prepared to take possession of the land He is giving them.

## Joshua 2:1-6

2 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho."

- ♦ Joshua sends two men to survey the land. He is taking precautions.

And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. 2 And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." 3 Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land."

- ♦ This could be the end of their lives.

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. 5 And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them."

- ♦ Rahab, the prostitute, lies to save their lives.

6 But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.

- ♦ She took precautions even before the King's men arrived at her door.

Flax was often given as payment to prostitutes.

## Hosea 2:5

5 For their mother has played the whore; she who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'

## Joshua 2:7-24

7 So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

8 Before the men 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 fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.

**So, why does she think the Lord is going to give them the land? Why is her entire country fearful of God’s people?**

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 devoted to destruction.

11 And as soon as **we heard it**, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

- ♦ **She confesses belief in the Lord as God and also implies that everyone is deserving of His judgment. But she aligns herself and her family with the Lord and finds mercy.**

**Now, what is Rahab basing her belief upon?**

**She is basing her faith (her trust) that the Lord is God, first, upon testimony. She did not witness the Lord parting the Red Sea. She heard about it. She did not witness the destruction of the Amorites. She heard about it.**

**Now, why would she believe these reports?**

**I know that many modern people today would say, “I don’t just believe whatever anyone tells me.”**

**I understand what you mean by that, but every single day you believe things people tell you. When you listen to the news, when you read a newspaper or magazine — that’s someone reporting to you. It’s someone telling you something. You believe the report based upon the reliability of the source.**

**One of the reasons I believe the gospel is due to the reliability of the sources — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We have historical eyewitness accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Every thought you have about Jesus Christ comes from these historical sources along with the rest of the New Testament.**

**That’s one of the other good reasons to believe. For 2,000 years people have been sharing the simple story found in these gospels and it continues to change people’s lives. Why? Because the words are so astounding? No. Because this simple story introduces people to the risen Christ whom they experience personally.**

**People don't just hear a story and believe it. They hear the story and experience the Christ of the story.**

**Just as Rahab believed reliable testimony about God's acts in history, we believe the reliable testimony concerning Jesus Christ. She did not take a blind leap of faith. She trusted the sources and then found the reality of God.**

**The author of Hebrews put her in the hall of faith. Even James says that her actions show her faith.**

**She was a Canaanite who converted to Judaism, because she believe the Lord is God based upon the reports.**

12 Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign 13 that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.”

- ♦ **She asks for a sure sign that she and her family will be saved.**
- ♦ **In the same way, the resurrection of Christ is God's sure sign to you that you can find life in Him.**
- ♦ **But what is the sure sign she is given?**

14 And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you **do not tell** this business of ours, then when the Lord gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

- **Do you have the power of conviction? Thankfully, most of us won't be tested in this, but do you have that kind of conviction concerning the gospel? Can you say, “I would stake my life on it?”**

- **Quote from *Foundation of Grace***

15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.

- **Video of Jericho**
  - **This was no coincidence that they ended up at Rahab's house. God directed them. God had a plan for a prostitute.**
  - **Confidence to share the gospel**
- 16 And she said to them, “Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way.”
- ♦ **She then gives them precautions for their journey back. It's interesting that they're going to be gone three days before she receives salvation from the destruction of Jericho.**

17 The men said to her, “We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear. 18 Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.

**There's a promise in the book of Romans when someone asked, “What must I do to be saved?” And the answer was, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, believe on the scarlet blood He shed for you and you will be saved. You and your household.”**

19 Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head. 20 But **if you tell** this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear.” 21 And she said, **“According to your words, so be it.”** Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

- **God's people gave her a scarlet cord as a sure sign of her salvation. And so Rahab was saved by a promise. The thing that saved her was not her own righteousness, but simply that she believed that the Lord was God. This simple scarlet cord, which hung down from her window, saved her and her family.**

- **She's a sinner who hears the reports of the Lord. She finds the reports credible. There is no leap of faith into the dark. She believes the promise these men give her.**
- **What's the sign of the salvation of her household? A scarlet cord.**
- **Now if that's not credible foreshadowing of the gospel of Jesus Christ hundreds of years before He was born, then no evidence will be enough for you.**
- **God has provided you a sure sign that you can be saved by trusting Christ. He's provided a sure sign that you can come to know the risen Christ.**
- **Here in the story of Rahab the plan of salvation is laid out the same way that it's presented to us in the New Testament. All the enemies of God will be destroyed. If you side with them either willfully or by default, you will be destroyed along with them. But if you believe the Lord is God you will be saved. If you believe that the scarlet cord of His blood paid for your sins, you will be saved. Even though an enemy currently occupies the land, Christ will return and set up His kingdom.**



**And the walls of all other kingdoms will come tumbling down.**

22 They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing. 23 Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and **they told him** all that had happened to them. 24 And they said to Joshua, “Truly the Lord has given all the land into our hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us.”

## **Joshua 6:17**

17 And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

- **This is the story of when the walls come tumbling down. An archeological dig from the 1950's reported: “The destruction was complete. Walls and floors were blackened or reddened by fire, and every room was filled with fallen bricks, timbers, and household utensils; in most rooms the fallen debris was heavily burnt.”**
- **Israel's own mission foreshadowed Jesus's mission in a number of ways. Their purity laws pointed to the holiness demanded by God. Their sacrificial laws**

**pointed to our need for atonement. And their laws concerning this type of warfare pointed to God's just judgment against sin. In all of these respects, Israel's laws were signposts to the spiritual realities behind Christ's redemptive work for us. (Kyle Dillon)**

- **Meredith Kline proposes that this is foreshadowing of God's final judgment upon sin. Scripture tells us that the punishment for all sin is death (**Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23**), and ultimately every unrepentant sinner will have to face God's judgment. However, according to Kline, sometimes we get snapshots of God's final judgment “intruding” into the flow of history, foreshadowing the reality to come. The *destruction of Jericho* was an example of this intrusion.**
- **The city of Jericho is an historical city.**
- **Rahab is an historical figure.**
- **This is an account of the history of God's people.**

## **Hebrews 11:29-31**

29 By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were

drowned. **30** By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. **31** By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

### **Applications:**

- It's fitting that an ancestor of Jesus would be involved in an account that illustrates the truth of the gospel.

What does it say about the danger of the unbeliever's situation?

- Other than Rahab and her family, the people of Jericho didn't have a care in the world. They didn't know that they were about to face the judgment of God. Rahab had to go to all her relatives and tell them to come to her home. They had to go to a house of prostitution. In other words, they had to humble themselves in order to be saved. Based on what? The word of a prostitute. "God uses what is lowly and despised, even things that are not, to bring to nothing the things that are."
- You are being told a story about the world, whether you know it or not. In

school, at work, in college, in books, in television, in movies — you're being presented with a story about the human family history. That story is either telling you the truth or confirming you in a lie.

- I don't normally watch *Supergirl*, but all the DC TV universes have shared storylines at times, so I had to watch an episode of *Supergirl* to keep up with the storyline of *The Flash*. Well, in this episode, Supergirl's sister goes to a wedding and has a one night stand, which she feels guilty about, until Supergirl tells her that it's perfectly normal. It's nothing to be ashamed about. Through the character of Supergirl children are being told a story of the world. They are being confirmed in the lie that casual sex is harmless. Whereas in the Christian worldview, sexual sins are the only sins you commit against your own body. You sin against yourself. (If you want details as to why that is, you can listen to the sermon called "Purity" from the *Seeking Him* series.)
- Is the story that you're buying into telling you the truth about the way things are? Or are you being confirmed in a lie? Are



you being made to feel secure in a falsehood? Because one day the walls will come tumbling down on your worldview if God is not Lord in your worldview.

- C.H. Spurgeon urged Christians to remember “your mortality, you may say to corruption, ‘You art my father,’ and to the worm, ‘You art my sister’; and yet in Christ you are so honored that you canst say to the Almighty, ‘Abba, Father,’ and to the Incarnate God, ‘You are my brother and my husband.’ Surely if relationships to ancient and noble families make men think highly of themselves, we have more to glory over the heads of them all. Let the poorest and most despised believer lay hold upon this privilege; let not a senseless laziness make you negligent to trace your pedigree, and suffer no foolish attachment to present vanities to occupy your thoughts to the exclusion of this glorious, this heavenly honor of union with Christ.”
- Our pedigree now is God as our Father and Christ as our brother. Because He is immortal, we are now immortal.

**"Because I live, you shall live also." He has joined us to Himself. The Triune God is now our family line.**

- We are children of the Most High God because Christ was born of a virgin, which set into motion everything that would make our redemption possible.