

Rahab

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JOSHUA 2:9-11 KJV

9 and she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. 10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that *were* on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. 11 And as soon as we had heard *these things*, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he *is* God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

There is a lie that the enemy loves to whisper in the ears of broken people. It is a loud, condemning, and self-sabotaging lie that has kept too many of us paralyzed by our past. The lie is simple: You are too damaged to be used by God. The enemy will play a highlight reel of your worst mistakes, your deepest traumas, and your most humiliating seasons, and try to convince you that your emotional scars have disqualified you from divine purpose.

But if you look closely at the Word of God, you will discover a disruptive, life-altering revelation. God does not recruit from the pool of the perfect. He specializes in taking what the world has discarded, what society has labeled, and what trauma has scarred, and turning it into a masterpiece of His grace.

If you are carrying the weight of emotional wounds today, if you feel like you have ruined your chances, or if you are a mother fighting just to hold your mind and your family together, I want you to look at a woman in the book of Joshua. Her name was Rahab.

In the biblical text, she is almost always introduced with a title that society gave her. She is called "Rahab the harlot." Jericho had defined her by her worst decisions. The culture had reduced her to her trauma, her survival tactics, and her shame. Yet, out of all the people in the heavily fortified city of Jericho, the God of Israel bypassed the politicians, ignored the wealthy, stepped over the religious elite, and sent His spies straight to the house of a broken woman living on the wall.

Point 1: Your Label Does Not Limit Your Lord

When the spies arrived in Joshua chapter 2, they found a woman who was living on the margins. Rahab's house was literally built into the city wall. She lived on the edge. Many of you know exactly what that feels like. You have been living on the edge of a nervous breakdown, on the edge of giving up, on the edge of letting bitterness completely take over your heart. You have been defined by your divorce, your mistakes, your family background, or the abuse you suffered.

But God is not intimidated by your trauma. He is not shocked by your scars. Rahab teaches us that God can drop a new revelation into a messy situation. She had heard what God was doing for the Israelites, and instead of letting her past lock her out of her future, she made a decision to believe. When we look at her response, we uncover the critical mindsets required to break out of our self-sabotaging patterns and step into purpose.

The Postures of a Redeemed Mind

When trauma dictates your life, you build walls to keep people out. But when revelation enters your life, you learn how to open the door to what God is doing.

Rahab had to make several crucial shifts in her thinking to position herself for a miracle:

1. She refused to let her environment dictate her faith; while the rest of Jericho was melting in fear, she chose to believe the report of the Lord.
2. She leveraged her current position for a future promise, using the very house on the wall that represented her shame to hide the messengers of God.
3. She risked her present comfort to secure her family's future, proving that faith often requires us to do something terrifying.

You cannot wait until you have a perfect resume to start believing God. If you wait until all your emotional baggage is perfectly sorted out before you surrender, you will be waiting forever. God wants to use you right where you are. He wants to use the pain you survived as a testimony to pull somebody else out of the fire. Your history of adversity is the exact resume God uses to build resilience in His Kingdom.

Point 2: Faith is Louder Than Your Fear

In Joshua 2:9-11, Rahab begins to preach a better sermon than most theologians. She says to the spies, "I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us... For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you... for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in

earth beneath."

Notice what is happening here. Rahab is managing her emotions. The entire city is suffering from a mental stronghold of terror, but Rahab makes a pivot. She refuses to drown in the collective anxiety of her environment. She takes the little bit of information she heard about God and turns it into a monumental declaration of faith.

This is where the rubber meets the road for your life. When the pressure is on, when your mind is racing, when the trauma gets triggered, what are you doing with your fear? Rahab chose to let her faith speak louder than her anxiety. We must actively tear down the wrong attitudes that keep us bound to our history.

Breaking the Strongholds of the Past

Healing from trauma and stepping into your calling requires active participation. You cannot passively wait for your mind to change; you must intentionally evict the thoughts that do not align with God's word.

To step out of the shadows like Rahab did, you must engage in a fight for your own emotional healing:

1. Acknowledge the pain without letting it become your identity.
2. Stop rehearsing your failures and start reciting God's track record of faithfulness.
3. Make a conscious choice to protect your peace, just as Rahab protected the spies, hiding the promises of God deep within your heart.
4. Refuse the poison of bitterness, recognizing that unforgiveness will keep you trapped behind the very walls God is trying to bring down.

Rahab teaches us that faith is not the absence of a messy life; faith is surrendering that messy life to a holy God. She didn't clean up her act first and then ask for grace. She asked for grace right in the middle of her mess, and that grace became the foundation for her new life.

Point 3: Hang the Scarlet Thread

Before the spies left, they made a covenant with Rahab. They told her in Joshua 2:18, "Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee."

This is one of the most powerful, life-applicable moments in the entire Old

Testament. The spies didn't tell her to paint her house. They didn't tell her to change her address. They told her to hang a scarlet thread in the window. That red cord is a prophetic picture of the blood of Jesus Christ. It was a sign that judgment was coming to the city, but mercy was covering that specific house. I need every mother, every parent, and every person fighting for their family to hear this clearly. When you hang the scarlet thread of the blood of Jesus over your life, it does not just save you. It secures your household. Rahab brought her mother, her father, and her siblings into her house. The very woman who had been a source of shame for her family became the instrument of their salvation!

The Power of the Blood Over Your Life

When you apply the grace of God to your life, it completely rewrites your narrative. The scarlet thread is not just a historical detail; it is a spiritual weapon. When the enemy tries to drag you back into the emotional graves you used to live in, you have to point to the thread.

The blood of Jesus does several specific things for the believer who dares to trust Him:

1. It cancels the condemnation of your past, declaring that who you were is not who you are.
2. It establishes a boundary line that the enemy cannot cross, protecting your mind and your family from destruction.
3. It shifts your identity from a victim of your circumstances to an empowered heir of God's promises.

When the walls of Jericho came crashing down in chapter 6, the only part of the wall that remained standing was the section where the scarlet thread was hanging. Everything else collapsed, but the house with the red cord stood firm. When the economies crash, when relationships fail, when the culture loses its mind, the only thing that will keep your household from collapsing is the blood of the Lamb.

Conclusion: From the Wall to the Lineage

God used Rahab to protect the spies, but He wasn't done with her. If you turn over to the New Testament, in Matthew chapter 1, you will read the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Right there in the bloodline of the Savior, you will find a familiar name. Rahab married a prince of Judah named Salmon. She gave birth to a son named Boaz. Boaz had a son named Obed. Obed had Jesse, and Jesse had King David.

The woman who was known as the harlot on the wall of Jericho became the great-great-grandmother of King David, and earned her place in the earthly lineage of Jesus Christ Himself. She is listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. That is the God we serve. He takes the broken, the traumatized, and the discarded, and He writes them into His eternal story. Whatever your life looks like

right now, I came to tell you that God is not finished with you. Bring Him your emotional scars. Bring Him your self-sabotaging mindsets. Bring Him your regrets. Hang the scarlet thread of His grace in the window of your heart today. Surrender the pain, refuse the bitterness, and watch how God takes your messy past and uses it to birth a miraculous future.