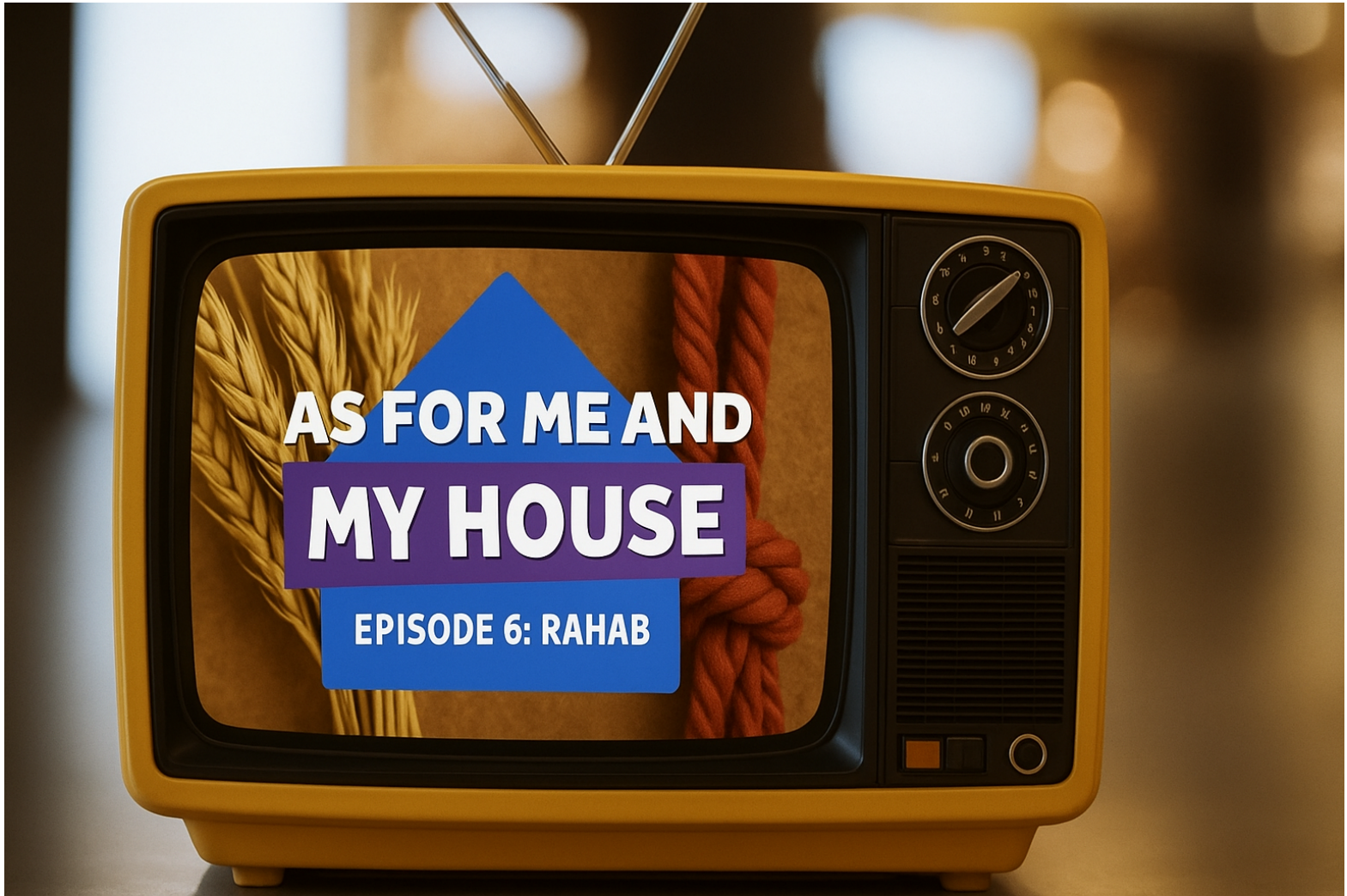




Scripture Readings

Joshua 2:1-7 (NKJV)

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. 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."

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 them." 6 (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.) 7 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.

Hebrews 11:30-31 (NKJV)

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

Introduction

In this series, we've been highlighting the callings upon men and their households and the impact and shift in the destiny, the outcomes and generational ripple effects from their decisions to trust God and follow His voice. Today, we're going to flip the script on that and talk about a woman whose name is listed as a heroine of faith in what I call the "Hall of Faith" book. Some might say Hebrews 11 was the Hall of Fame chapter, but today's story shows us that you can be famous for one thing but faithful to another! That God is not so much concerned about what you're famous for; He's more concerned about what you're faithful to.

What She Was Famous For

- What do we know about Rahab? There's a lot we don't know
- She was a harlot within Jericho
- She was the woman that hid the spies that came from Israel's camp to spy out the land.
- She was also someone that heard and believed the testimonies of God's deliverance of Israel and the victories He had brought to Israel.
- She believed that God wanted to give Canaan to Israel as their Promise

What She Was Faithful To

- She had a family, a mother, father, brothers and sisters who lived within the walls of Jericho
- Evidence suggests that she also likely had another trade
 - She had a lot of flax, linen and scarlet thread on her rooftop
 - Flax was a highly valued plant in the biblical world, with sturdy fibers used to produce linen. The flax could grow up to three or four feet high, and after harvesting, it was typically soaked, dried, and bleached on rooftops before being processed into oil and linen fibers[2]. Rahab was likely "retting" the flax - a process of loosening linen fibers by drying them in the sun and occasionally beating the stalks, which created a thatch-like matting. Some scholars even suggest that the presence of flax and a scarlet thread indicated she might have been engaged in linen manufacturing and dyeing. Ultimately, her actions were seen as an act of faith, with the New Testament noting that she was "justified through her faith" by protecting the spies.

The Duality of Rahab

- Like so many people today, there's the thing that we're known for (good or bad) and then there's the thing that we've always wanted to do
- And like many of us I believe there was a duality to Rahab that many people didn't see, but God saw it.
- And God didn't condemn her for the side of her life that she was known for
 - the bad reputation
 - the part that was useful to others but detrimental to her
- God used the part of her life that she had reserved for a better day and a better life, to bring salvation to her life and her household.

Where She Was Trapped

- The walls of Jericho kept outsiders from 'coming in,' but it also kept Rehab from 'getting out' of the lifestyle she was in.
- But when the testimonies of the Lord started to 'get in' through the walls, and the spies entered into the city and found her home, 'she saw her way out!'"
- Joshua 2:9-13 (NKJV) 9 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. 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. 12 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, 13 and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

You can be trapped in a situation for so long, that you think that there is no way out. But as soon as good news gets in to where you are, you start to believe that there is a way out!

Getting to Jesus

Matthew 1:1-6 (NKJV)

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

(Ruth 4:18-22; 1 Chr. 2:1-15; Luke 3:23-38)

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

We don't often get to Jesus without us or someone in our family line going through some struggle and redemption through that struggle.

- a struggle with addiction
- a struggle with a vice
- a struggle with integrity
- a struggle with enemies
- a struggle with health
- a struggle with family
- a struggle with expectations
- a struggle with a past
- a struggle with feeling stuck
- a struggle with feeling trapped
- a struggle with grief

But when Rahab heard that the Lord God of Israel was leading His people towards Jericho, she saw a way out! When she heard that the people were being led by Yashua, (whose name means “the Lord will rescue, the Lord will save, The Lord will deliver), she saw her way out for her and her family!

She probably said in her heart, “As For Me and My House:”

- we’re not going to die here in these walls
- we’re not going to be on the wrong side of this battle
- we’re not going to allow these walls which have become our homes to now become our tombs
- we’re not going to be crushed in the rubble and the destruction
- we’re going to live
- we’re going to survive
- we’re going to thrive
- we’re joining the Lord’s side
- enough with the past—I’ve been investing in our future
- “As For Me and My House:” we too will serve the Lord