

## Getting Past the Past

### Part 2

#### Rahab

#### 8.3.25

Joshua 2: Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove,<sup>[a]</sup> saying, “Go and scout the land, especially Jericho.” So they left, and they came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there.

<sup>2</sup> The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land.” <sup>3</sup> Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land.”

<sup>8</sup> Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof <sup>9</sup> and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>10</sup> 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 Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. <sup>11</sup> When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone’s courage failed<sup>[c]</sup> because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below. <sup>12</sup> Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness to my father’s family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>13</sup> that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.”

<sup>14</sup> The men answered her, “We will give our lives for yours. If you don’t report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the LORD gives us the land.”

<sup>15</sup> Then she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city.

<sup>17</sup> The men said to her, “We will be free from this oath you made us swear, <sup>18</sup> unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother,

brothers, and all your father's family into your house. <sup>19</sup> If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his death will be his own fault, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his death will be our fault. <sup>20</sup> And if you report our mission, we are free from the oath you made us swear."

<sup>21</sup> "Let it be as you say," she replied, and she sent them away. After they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord to the window.

## **I. The past can stick with us**

**She was the sex worker**

**Joshua 2: Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove, <sup>[a]</sup> saying, "Go and scout the land, especially Jericho." So they left, and they came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there.**

**Acts 9: <sup>13</sup> "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard from many people about this man, how much harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem.**

## **II. We don't have to let our past define who we are now.**

**Rahab's actions and words indicated she came to the Lord**

**Joshua 2: <sup>9</sup> and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you**

## **III. God does not let your past impact his love for us**

**Rahab received forgiveness just like we all can**

**Joshua 2: <sup>9</sup> and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you**

**Ephesians 5 <sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light**

#### **IV. God leverages our past for a productive future!!**

**She is in the "Hall of fame"**

**Hebrews 11:31 By faith Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies in peace and didn't perish with those who disobeyed.**

**She impacted her family**

**She impacted our savior.**

**II Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has<sup>[a]</sup> come!**

**Rom 8: <sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together<sup>Ⓜ</sup> for the good<sup>Ⓜ</sup> of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose**

**Close:**

**The past does not have to be your prison. You have a voice in your destiny. You have a say in your life. You have a choice in the path you take.**

**Max Lucado**